

*"Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives"*

# HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## ***REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS***

October, 2025, Issue 10

I think most of you know that I am an avid fan of the Clemson Tigers football. And I also think many of you know how disappointing this season has been for me. Judy and I just returned from our annual trip to South Carolina where we watched Syracuse University defeat Clemson 34-21. Many of the preseason college football polls had Clemson ranked among the top five teams in the nation. Several so-called experts picked Clemson to win the national college football championship. As I write this, Clemson has lost three of their first four games and we will be lucky to win at two more games.

As I sat in the stadium on a hot, humid Saturday afternoon prior to a rain delay watching Syracuse run all over Clemson, I thought about the lessons I (we) can learn from this experience. First, one of the problems with my Tigers was that the players had read their press clippings and got caught up in the hype. Do we do the same thing? Think too highly of ourselves.

You can get too used to winning, with everything going great for you. However, as we all know from experience, life is not a rose garden. Things don't always go as we expect or hope for. As Forrest Gump said: "My mama always said life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you gonna get." There are always highs and lows in life, good times and bad times. Sometimes you win national championships and sometime you have a losing season. In reality, it is the hard times, the problems and disappointments in life that shape us and make us who we are. We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so we can know who we are. The most valuable lessons in life cannot be taught; they must be experienced. Thus, we need to walk in faith, taking one day at a time. In John 16:33, Jesus said: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Accept the fact that this is not Clemson's year! Follow the advice of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 4:11 – be content in whatever situation you find yourself. Enjoy life and don't

dwell on the negatives; life is too short to live with regrets. Look for the good in everybody and everything, and focus on Jesus. If we keep our eyes focused on Jesus, there will be less twists and turns in our lives, and life will be more enjoyable and fulfilling. Hebrews 12:2 tells us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who both began and finished the race of life each of us are now in.

There are more important things in life than football. Now I know some of you can't believe I said that! As I get older, the more I realize that my personal relationship with the Lord is the most important thing in my life. In Matthew 6:21, Jesus said: "Where your treasure is, there your heart is also." When you focus on the Lord, life is better and you can deal with the disappointments. Saint Augustine said: "Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee (and in Thee only). Wait until next year!

God Bless, Reuben



Blessing of the  
Animals  
Saturday, October  
4, 2025 at 9 AM  
in the church  
parking lot

All pets welcome (except snakes!)

### CHURCH COOKOUT

**DATE:** Friday October 17, 2025

**TIME:** 5 – 7 pm

**LOCATION:** Church Parking Lot



We will provide hotdogs and hamburgers (and buns) with water, lemonade and ice tea. Please bring a dish to share. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for your dish and how you can help with the cookout. Join us for a great time of fellowship.

This is a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors

### ***Military Family Prayer List***

Many men and women are faithfully serving our country in the armed service all over the world to protect our country and ensure our freedom. Please pray for the safety of:

Master Sergeant Gary Carter, US Army

Prya Chino, US Navy

Sergeant Major Reginald Daniels, United States Marine Corp, United Arab Emirates

Second Lieutenant Darien Garcia, US Air Force

Staff Sergeant Brock Henning, US Air Force

Major Herbert Jockheck, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC

Major Brian Koa Yee, United States Air Force

Lt. Devin Marshall, Ft. Novosel, AL

Gunnery Sergeant Jesse Perkins, United States Marines, Bangkok

Captain Shelli Schimke, USAF Intelligence

Lieutenant Kristina Scott, US Navy

Lt. Colonel Ryan Stanfill, US Air Force, McConnell AFB, Wichita, Kansas

## ***Bible Studies for Everyone***

Do you want to grow closer to the Lord in 2025 and experience His presence in your life? One of the best ways is to participate in a weekly Bible study. Please join one of the following studies:

**SUNDAY 10:00 AM:** *Jeff Bair is leading a new discussion based class entitled: "Matthew Plus."*

**MONDAY 10:30 AM:** *Marie Donat is leading a class on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy.*

**WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM:** *Francie Larsen is leading a class entitled "The God You Need to Know."*

**WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM:** *Pastor Reuben has begun a new class by Adam Hamilton, entitled Simon Peter, Flawed but Faithful Disciple.*

**FAIRWINDS:** *Tony Smith is also leading a class at Fairwinds on Tuesdays.*



### **WOMEN WITH PURPOSE**

Our October meeting on Thursday, October 2, 2025, will be remembered as one of our most special meetings. With the Reverend Doctor Jenee Noriega sharing her faith journey, many of the congregation will long remember being inspired by her walk with Christ from

homelessness and prison to eventually serving as a pastor. She earned her bachelor's degree from UNM, and her Master's and Doctorates from Nazarene Theological Seminary.

We are truly blessed to know Dr. Noriega. Thank you, Wanda Golsan, for arranging her visit to Women with Purpose.

Our October project supports Saranam, which provides housing and education for women and children as it strives to end homelessness. Birthday bags containing supplies for a child's birthday party are provided to children in the Saranam program.



## **OCTOBER SECOND MILE GIVING**

While Thanksgiving and Christmas are a few months away, we are already starting our holiday preparations. There are three opportunities for Second Mile Giving during October as noted below for helping others during the holiday season:

### **THANKSGIVING BOXES**

For the last six years, High Desert has been providing Thanksgiving Boxes with all the items needed for a Thanksgiving dinner, including the turkey, to the clients of Haven House. They have indicated that they need 50 boxes this year. Haven House is the only domestic violence shelter in Sandoval County. They provide emergency shelter, case management, support groups, life-skill classes, legal advocacy, referral to job opportunities, housing and other supportive services, and therapeutic counseling for both women and their children. If you would like to support this ministry, please mark "Thanksgiving Boxes" on the memo line of your check to the church. We will purchase all the items and assemble the boxes.

### **CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS**

St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel is one of our mission projects. The school serves 38 students from the Acoma and Laguna Pueblos. Three years ago, when we asked principal Antonio Trujillo what we could do for the students at Christmas, he indicated that gift cards would be an excellent Christmas gift. Due to your generosity, we were able to give each student a \$50 gift card for the past two years. This allowed the students to purchase what they really wanted for Christmas. We would like to continue this successful mission project and plan to purchase a \$25 or \$50 gift card for each student depending on how much is donated. If you would like to support this project, please mark "Christmas Gift Cards" on the memo line of your check to the church.

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

High Desert has participated in this mission project for several years, where members get a shoebox (any regular size will work), and fill it with toys, hygiene items, school supplies and a donation of \$10 for shipping and bring it to the church. We will take the boxes to Grace Outreach Church during collection week on November 11, for distribution to children in need all around the world. You can either assemble your own box (instructions and empty boxes are available in the Narthex) or you can donate \$30 (\$20 for items and \$10 for shipping) to the church and Patty Latter will purchase the items. Last year we collected 158 boxes and our goal this year is 160 boxes. Please mark "Operations Christmas Child" on your memo line.

As you can see, there are several opportunities to give and make a difference in the lives of children and those in need. We hope that you will support at least one or all of these mission projects. Your continued support and participation in the mission program of High Desert is greatly appreciated.

## OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE

Who was Elimelech in the Old Testament?

*Find the answer elsewhere in this issue.*



### **Choir singers always welcome:**

The choir has resumed practicing on Wednesdays, at 5:30 PM. All singers are welcome. We are looking forward to an exciting year of music, as the choir plans to sing every Sunday at the 9:00 AM service. Any questions...see Drew Ammons.

### **ASBURY PIE CAFÉ**



The Asbury Pie Café is a tradition of the New Mexico State Fair. For over sixty years, volunteers have served homemade pies and ice cream to thousands of fair goers. Last year they collected around \$50,000 that was distributed to non-profit organizations in Albuquerque that are feeding the homeless. This year 1,651 pies were sold, almost

the same as last year. Special thanks to the following individuals who have volunteered to serve pies and ice cream on: Friday, September 5 and Monday September 8 from 8:45 am – 2 pm: Janet Barnard, Linn Carlson, Rusty Dils, Sue Duranty, Kathy Hays, Kent Hays, Bonnie Korngiebel, Carol Lamkin, Elaine Marshall, Jeff Pratt, Ron Sanders, Judy Thomas, and Reuben Thomas.



New volunteers on the Friday Team:  
Carol Lamkin, Elaine Marshall, and Rusty Dils



### ***An Invitation***

***Save the Date: Saturday, December 6, 2025 12:00 pm – 2:30 pm***

***A Peaceful Habitation's Annual Gala***

***Winter's Glow: Celebrating 20 years of Legacy & Faith***

***Embassy Suites of Albuquerque, 1000 Woodward Place NE***

***RSVP: 505-440-5937 or [adminnnnn@apeacefulhabitation.org](mailto:adminnnnn@apeacefulhabitation.org)***



## RECOGNITION OF OUR VETERANS

On Sunday November 9, 2025, we are planning a special recognition for the veterans of our congregation. There will be a brochure listing all of our veterans in the bulletin. If you are a veteran, please provide the following information to the Church Office or Reuben. To ensure accurately, please print or type.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL OR PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

SERVICE TIME: From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

*Also, if you are willing to share the following (optional):*

RANK AT TIME OF DISCHARGE: \_\_\_\_\_

METALS & AWARDS RECEIVED: \_\_\_\_\_

SERVED AT FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:



## Asbury UMC Christmas Bazaar



**Saturday, November 1, 2025    9:00 am – 3:00 pm**  
10000 Candelaria Road NE, Albuquerque

# OCTOBER

## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>MS = MorningStar Worship</b> <b>JAM = Jesus and Music</b>			<b>1</b> Office Hrs: <b>9-12</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir	<b>2</b> 10:00 AM- Women with Purpose	<b>3</b> 11:00-2:00 Food Pantry 4:30 PM JAM (Jesus and Music)	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>9 AM Worship</b> <b>10:00 Sunday</b> <b>School</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 Feed NM Kids  10:30 AM Bible Study	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Office Hrs: <b>9-12</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir	<b>9</b> 10:00-12:00 Emmaus Agape Group	<b>10</b> 4:30 PM JAM	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>9 AM Worship</b> <b>10 AM Sunday</b> <b>School</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	<b>13</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study	<b>14</b> 6:00 PM Ministry Team Mtg	<b>15</b> Office Hrs: <b>9-12</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 pm Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir	<b>16</b> 1-4 PM Food Pantry	<b>17</b> <b>5-7 PM Church</b> <b>Cookout</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>9 AM Worship</b> <b>10 AM Sunday</b> <b>School</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	<b>20</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study	<b>21</b> 9-12 Food Pantry <b>6 PM Church</b> <b>Conf. Grace</b> <b>UMC</b>	<b>22</b> Office Hrs: <b>9-12</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 4:30 PM JAM	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>9 AM Worship</b> <b>10 AM Sunday</b> <b>School</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	<b>27</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Office Hrs: <b>9-12</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 4:30 PM JAM	

## BOOKS REUBEN READ DURING VACATION



*Moses In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet* by Adam Hamilton

I first read this book in 2017, but reread it on vacation for a possible subject of a Bible study. Adam explores the sites of Moses' life from the Nile River to the Reed Sea, from Mt. Sinai to the wilderness. Using historical information, archaeological data, and biblical text, Adam guides the reader in the footsteps of this reluctant prophet who blazed a trail of faith. This epic account of the life of Moses, together with the deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, is the defining story of the Jewish people. For Christians, Moses' life serves as the backstop for much that is found in the Gospels. Moses' story reveals something to us about God, about ourselves, and about God's will for our lives.

*The Gospel According to Paul* by John MacArthur

The Apostle Paul wrote the most letters in the New Testament summarizing the gospel message. Each of these key texts have a unique emphasis highlighting some essential aspects of the Good News. Christ's resurrection is the central point around which all biblical truth revolves. MacArthur noted that Paul continually preached "Jesus Christ crucified" – in other words that Jesus was crucified, died, buried, and rose from the grave on the third day bringing salvation to all who believe. Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures. In his book, he discusses how some theologians, preachers, and churches are drifting from the gospel. While this book was not an easy read, it was insightful and confirmed my approach to preaching the gospel.

*Faithful Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph* by Adam Hamilton

Typically, when Christians explore the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus, they focus on Mary, the mother of Jesus. However, this book focuses on Joseph, his life, and his role in the birth and life of Jesus. There is little in the Gospels about Joseph; he is mentioned in only sixteen verses by name. So, Adam includes information drawn from other documents and traditions. This is a worthwhile reading that provides new insights into the life of Joseph and lessons for living the Christian life.



## Care Ministry

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

<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>Lucille Few</b>	920 Riverview Dr. SE, Rio Rancho 87124	
<b>Vi Ortega</b>	Care Free 10916 Juan Tabo Place NE Albq. 87111	288-2160
<b>Pat McElwain</b>	4536 Ambrose Alday SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	235-7484
<b>Judy Ballard</b>	Ridgmar Place, Apt. 3405, 2151 Green Oak Rd., Ft. Worth TX 76116	240-0912



Jim & Kathy Harrell	October 2
Grover & Doris Donahoe	October 12

Dann Meyer	Oct. 3
Dave Duranty	Oct. 5
Wanda Golsan	Oct. 6
John Kottenbrook	Oct. 7
Raj Gandham	Oct. 9
Kay Boss	Oct. 11
Ken Dewbre	Oct. 11
Tara Warrior	Oct. 11
Leuretta Lewis	Oct. 17
Karen Malinka	Oct. 17
Helen Korschgen	Oct. 17
Bonnie Chalfant	Oct. 18
Doug Marshall	Oct. 18
Usa Van Doren	Oct. 19
Linda Bates	Oct. 20
Carol Lamkin	Oct. 21
Mary Ann Birch	Oct. 23
Joy Rhodes	Oct. 24
Ron Fraser	Oct. 28
Kay Anderson	Oct. 29
Jim Harrell	Oct. 29
Robert Pacheco	Oct. 30
Steven Thomas	Oct. 30

### ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE:

*ELIMELECH WAS NAOMI'S HUSBAND AND RUTH'S FATHER-IN-LAW. DURING A FAMINE IN JUDAH HE MOVED HIS FAMILY TO MOAB, WHERE HE LATER DIED. HIS TWO SONS ALSO DIED THERE, HAVING MARRIED MOABITE WOMEN. THE WELL-KNOWN STORY IS HOW RUTH WOULD NOT ABANDON HER MOTHER-IN-LAW NAOMI, WHO RETURNED TO HER COUNTRY. REMEMBER, JESUS IS A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF RUTH*

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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)

October, 2025 Newsletter

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## HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

**Distribution dates for October, 2025 are:**

**Friday, October 3, at 11:00 AM**

**Thursday, October 16, at 1:00 PM**

**Tuesday, October 21, at 9:00 AM**

**October Collection: Canned Vegetables**

Containers are in the Narthex & Fellowship Hall for these donations.

**Contact John Samford at (505) 870-0667  
for more information.**

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