

"Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives"

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

August, 2025, Issue 8

I love baseball – playing it, watching it, and coaching it. Over the years, I have had the privilege and opportunity to coach my sons and now my grandsons in little league baseball. Over the last eight years along with my son Ben, I have coached my grandson Logan all the way from T-ball to Major League. This was Logan's last year in little league. Because of his hard work and dedication, Logan was selected to the Eastdale All Stars Team, which went on to win the District and State Championships. They will be representing the State of New Mexico in the Southwest Regional Tournament in Waco, Texas. If they are fortunate to win this tournament, they will get the opportunity to play in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. This is a once in a lifetime experience for Logan and his teammates.

As I have watched Logan play in the District and State tournaments I have been impressed and proud of his attitude. While he did not get

to start or play in the field in all the games, it didn't affect his attitude. He is a natural born leader, always encouraging the other players. Baseball is a team sport. While Logan is not the star pitcher or home run hitter, he has played a major role as the right fielder, and has driven in several runs with timely hits. Every player important and plays a critical role in the team's performance and the outcome of the game.

As I have watched Logan and his teammates play, I have been reminded of what the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 12:4-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-30 about we as Christians being members of the body of Christ and our use of the spiritual gifts that God has given each of us. In baseball terms, we are all teammates with Jesus Christ as our coach. In these passages, Paul compares the Church to a body with many different members. Just as each part of our body has a critical function for our health and survival, so each member of the church has a critical role in the survival of the church and the building of God's kingdom here on earth.

In 1 Corinthians 12:14-26, Paul notes that no one part of the body is more

important than the others and all parts of the body have a key role. In the same way, every player on the baseball team has an important role in the success of the team. If one player makes an error, the whole team suffers. If one player hits a home run, the whole team celebrates. As a church, each of us has a role to play in how well High Desert serves the Lord and fulfills the purpose He has for us. Each of us has been given certain spiritual gifts to be used in the service of the Lord. No one gift is more important than others. We can all play a role in the ministry of the church, such as teaching Bible studies, leading worship at Morning-Star, singing in the choir, greeting, ushering, helping in the office and Pantry, participating in Women with Purpose, prayer chain and mission projects, checking on sick and homebound, and providing financial support. The key point is to find our role and niche, and then give it our best. Our team needs you! Let's play ball for the Lord!

God Bless, Reuben

New Address for the Kottenbrook Family

Many of us are wanting to write to Lori Kottenbrook and her family since their move out of state. Below is their new address:

John, Lori & Ben Kottenbrook
1829 S. Dewey, Ave.
Bartlesville, OK 74003

FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Fall Baseball Outing



Join us on Sunday September 7 at 1:35 pm for a great time of fun and fellowship as we watch the Isotopes play the Round Rock Express. We have reserved 40 box seats in the upper rows of Section 115 between

home plate and third base. Cost is \$17 per seat. The Church Bus will be available for those who sign up to reserve a ride. Please make your payment to the Church and mark "Baseball Outing" on the memo line of your check. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Sunday August 27 is the last date to sign-up.



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

BE A KID AGAIN - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Do you want to be a kid again? Do you want to relive memories of the past? Do you want to have fun and enjoy fellowship with others? Then join us on Thursday August 14 and Friday August 15. We will begin at 9 am with a brief worship of hymn selection and a short devotional. On Thursday, Drew Ammons will lead us in a sing along, and on Friday Rev. Tiffany Hollums will tell us about the exciting ministry at McCurdy Ministries and how we can help.

After a break we will have a time of crafts, making items for our various mission projects. Then there will be a time for indoor games. We will end each morning by sharing lunch together.

Here's a great chance to spend a morning having fun with friends. This is also a great opportunity for you to invite a friend or neighbor to join us. Ask anybody who participated last year and they will tell you that they had a great time; you don't want to miss it this year!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

During the month of August, we will continue collecting school supplies for our local schools, Pantry clients, St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel, and Gallup Nazarene Church. As we all know many families cannot afford to buy all the items required for their children's classes. While we are focusing on the basic supplies for the local schools, we are focusing 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
Backpacks	Crayola Markers



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

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:

MONDAY 10:30 AM: *Starting August 11, Marie Donat will lead a class On Stephen and Thomas.*

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: *Francie Larsen will be starting a new class soon.*

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: *Pastor Reuben will start a new class on August 27, by Adam Hamilton, entitled Simon Peter, Flawed but Faithful Disciple.*

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

ONLINE STUDIES: You can participate in one of Tony Smith's online studies on Isaiah Daniel, John and Revelation at coraleno@aol.com.

AUGUST SECOND MILE GIVING

During August, our Second Mile Giving will go to support one of our newest projects, "Hoodies for High Schoolers." Many of the students in Sandoval County are in need of warm clothing as the colder weather approaches, and teenagers love to wear sweatshirts with hoods – "hoodies." To address this need, we will collect funds during the month of August to purchase hoodies from a wholesale website we have identified. They will be distributed to the high schools in Sandoval County. If you would like to support this worthwhile ministry, please mark "Hoodies" on the memo line of your check to the church.

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE

Who was Zipporah in the Old Testament?

Find the answer elsewhere in this issue.



Choir singers needed:

The choir will resume practicing on Wednesday, August 27th at 5:30 PM. All singers are welcome. We are looking forward to an exciting year of music, as the choir will be singing every Sunday at the 9:00 AM service. Any questions...see Drew Ammons.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Our Wednesday night Bible Study will resume on August 27 at 5:30 pm. We will begin a six-week study of Adam Hamilton's book *Simon Peter, Flawed but Faithful Disciple*. While Simon Peter's shortcomings are clearly on display in the Gospels, so also are his courage, his determination, and his longing to follow Jesus even if it costs him his life. The Early Church knew how his story ended after his dramatic denial of Jesus on the night Jesus was arrested. Following Jesus' resurrection and ascension, Peter would, in fact, become the rock upon which the church was built. He would carry his cross to follow Jesus. He would lay down his life for the gospel. While in Peter's flaws Christians might see themselves, they might also see themselves in the moments of Peter's courage and faithfulness, and ultimately, they might see in him a picture of what they might aspire to be when empowered and led by the Spirit. Please join us as we explore Peter's life.

The Church in Mission



On July 10, Reuben met with Pastor Chris Davis of the Gallup Nazarene Church and Carlex of the Twin Lakes Senior Center on the Navajo Reservation. Carlex is one of the drivers who delivers hot meals and grocery boxes to the elderly and home-bound in the Twin Lakes Chapter. Carlex stated that the people on his route are very grateful to receive the grocery boxes, since it is difficult for them to travel to grocery stores. Twenty-five grocery boxes are provided by volunteers from High Desert UMC and taken each month to Pastor Chris for distribution. The cost to purchase and assemble the items for each box is about \$30. Thank you to Gordon & Wanda Golsan and to Tony & Sheila Smith for delivering the boxes to Gallup.

On a recent Wednesday morning, Linn Carlson, Val Forbes, and Wanda Golsan, members of the Mission Committee, met to assemble food packages for one of our many mission projects. On this day, they were preparing 75 lunch bags for the street ministry in Gallup. Pastor Chris Davis distributes these bags to the homeless people she meets each day in downtown Gallup. These zip lock bags contain enough nutritious foods and beverages to provide the recipient with two meals. While distributing the lunch bags, Chris is often able to spend time praying with the people as well.

If you would like to know more about these mission projects, see Judy Thomas, Mission Committee Chairperson.



HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MS = MorningStar						
					1 11:00-2:00 Food Pantry	2 5:00 PM Opera trip
3 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	4	5	6 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study	7	8	9
10 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	11 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:00 Feed NM Kids	12 6:00 PM Ministry Team Mtg	13 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study	14 9 AM VBS	15 9 AM VBS	16
17 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	18 10:30 AM Bible Study	19 9-12 Food Pantry	20 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study	21 1-4 PM Food Pantry	22	23 10 AM Funeral Service Don Roach
24 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	25 10:30 AM Bible Study	26	27 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir 5:30 PM Bible Study	28	29	30
31 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship						

Report of the New Mexico Annual Conference 2025

The 150th Session of the New Mexico Annual Conference (NMAC) of The United Methodist Church was held June 19-21, 2025, in Albuquerque with Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut presiding. Albuquerque DS Ross Whitaker and El Paso DS Pam Rowley lead the two New Mexico Districts. The theme **Lean In, Live Out** was prominent – lean in to each other (listening, learning, understanding), then live out (as Christian disciples with love, kindness and humble obedience).

During the 2 ½ days, Reports, Presentations and Business Sessions were surrounded by music, song and educational activity. Four Missional Priorities of the Conference were highlighted; one, 'Collaborating Connection to Community' reflects what High Desert is about with our Mission Programs! The presentations by Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso (Dr. Carla Cardoza) and McCurdy Ministries (Rev. Tiffany Hollums) were especially inspirational for our local Methodist programs. During transitions, a video highlighting HDUMC's outreach programs was broadcast for conference attendees all three days!

The NMAC was energetic with an upbeat feel. While the business of approving committee membership, hearing committee reports, and receiving training on various topics was accomplished – it still allowed time to talk to other church delegates since specific emphasis was given to listening and sharing of how things were accomplished in their community. Even with the Resolution for Discontinuance (closing) for three churches, this was noted as "reached faithful completion", a positive result in completing their mission! Appointments were set for the following year – Reuben is with us and we with him! Conference budgets, committee appointments and resolutions were acted upon. The Conference Journal & Supplement are available for review in the Church Office upon request.

Submitted,

John Samford

Lay Delegate

Patty Latter

Lay Delegate - Alternate



KAIROS Prison Ministry

August 14th– 17th at the Women's Correctional Facility in Grants, NM

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World!

Linn Carlson will be taking a much-needed break and will not be working this year's KAIROS Weekend. However, I have been supporting the team leader and team members remotely and have agreed to help fill the 72-hour prayer chain for the weekend.

- Would you be willing to 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! Let me know and I can sign you up for a prayer slot!



The Walk to Emmaus – Reflections from Participants

“From time to time I have found it necessary to reflect upon my walk with my Savior Jesus Christ. The world often discourages meaningful reflection especially in this isolating age of the internet. I get busy with life and meaningless distractions.

The Walk to Emmaus provided more than a quiet reflection. It shifted my perspective to a meaningful focal point. It reminded how much I am loved by the community of Christians of which I am very much entwined. Jesus Christ loves me just as I am; flaws and all.

The Walk provides a door to that peace that surpasses understanding.

Take the Walk; find the peace.”

DeColores,

Dan Foley

“I, like some of you, had heard people talk about “the Walk to Emmaus”. I had no idea; it seemed to me that there was a walk someplace that took you to a place called “Emmaus”. Maybe some reenactment of the biblical Emmaus? I became curious, especially since many of the people in the bible study had been and were commenting on their life changing event! I began asking questions, but . . . it seemed odd to me that most people didn’t want to “say too much” leaving a lot more unanswered questions. I did however understand it was NOT a trip to Isreal. But what did it involve? I kept hearing, if you ever get a chance to go, you’ve got to do it!

So suddenly, I was given the chance to go, God had put all the pieces in place, including clearing my busy calendar. I had to make a decision! I was given a bit more information. Take this, don’t take that. No contact with anyone back home for any reason, for 3 days! Well, I thought, why such a mystery? I had heard a walk for men, and a couple of weeks later a walk for women . . . hmmm? So, I began to have more questions . . . You just have to go to find out . . . The food is the BEST and it’s not a lot of walking. The accommodations are satisfactory. You will have a sponsor who will be responsible for getting you from home to the event and back home. So, I prayed about it. I told myself if God is calling me to do this I cannot say “no”. I felt kind of like one of the disciples, when Jesus said come with me, they dropped everything, took nothing and followed Jesus!

On that day, leaving everything behind, I walked out of my house and got into a vehicle, about all I really knew was that I was going to be left there for 3 days. I had a very nice meal before leaving town, spending 3 days with God sounded amazing to me! I knew the ladies at church would not lead me down a path that I should be concerned about, so off I went. There was a certain amount of trust that went into the entire 3 days. You go where you are told to go and when. Speaking for myself, I didn’t know anyone else who was on this journey with me before I was there. So, during my journey I met numerous other Christian women, and learned so much more about God’s grace and love! Now I can face every 4th day with new hope and love!”

Marie Donat

Care Ministry

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

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
Mac Esquibel	4544 Aguila Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-1469
Lucille Few	920 Riverview Dr. SE, Rio Rancho 87124	
Vi Ortega	Care Free 10916 Juan Tabo Place NE Albq. 87111	288-2160
Pat McElwain	4536 Ambrose Alday SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	235-7484
Judy Ballard	Ridgmar Place, Apt. 3405, 2151 Green Oak Rd., Ft. Worth TX 76116	240-0912



Lynn & Jana Siverts	Aug. 10
Jeff & Elaine Pratt	Aug. 14
Keith & Diane Witt	Aug. 21
Kent & Kathy Hays	Aug. 22
Wayne & Pauline Walker	Aug. 23
Ken & Sandy Dewbre	Aug. 29

Gordon Golsan	Aug. 2
Cheryl Mason	Aug. 4
Ton Creveling	Aug. 10
Lou Williams	Aug. 10
Bobbie Morris	Aug. 11
Roberta Jockheck	Aug. 12
Del Larsen	Aug. 13
Paul Lewis	Aug. 13
Rebecca Just	Aug. 15
Dannye Bristow	Aug. 17
Judy Sampson	Aug. 18
Doris Donahoe	Aug. 20
Ben Kottenbrook	Aug. 22
Jim Bauman	Aug. 23
Jana Siverts	Aug. 25
Lorraine Zapf	Aug. 27
Debby Dils	Aug. 29

ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE:

*A DAUGHTER OF JETHRO, A MIDIAN PRIEST, ZIPPORAH AND HER SISTERS WERE BEING BULLIED AT THE TOWN WATER WELL. MOSES CAME ALONG AND RESCUED THEM. THE GRATEFUL PRIEST GAVE ZIPPORAH TO MOSES AS A WIFE.
(FROM EXODUS 2)*

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

August, 2025 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for August, 2025 are:

Friday, August 1, at 11:00 AM

Tuesday, August 19, at 9:00 AM

Thursday, August 21, at 1:00 PM

August Collection: Rice & Beans, small bags

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

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