

"Loving God. Serving Others. Changing Lives"

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

Well, we are now halfway through 2026. Many of us have met or will meet with our doctor for our semi-annual or annual checkup. Our doctor will check our blood pressure and heart and prescribe the necessary tests and lab work for a thorough examination. Just like our physical health needs regular checkups, so does our spiritual health. So, here's some questions for you to seriously consider:

1. Have you grown closer to the Lord over the past six months?
2. How would you describe your personal relationship with the Lord – stronger, the same, weaker, non-existent?
3. Is the Lord the primary focus of your life, or an afterthought?
4. Have you established a daily quiet time of prayer and Bible reading?
5. How often do you pray each day – morning, night, throughout day, occasionally, never?
6. Do you pray for others? Do you practice intercessory prayer?
7. How often do you read the Bible – every day, occasionally, only listen on Sunday morning?

8. Are you participating in a weekly Bible study?
9. Do you attend worship services regularly, every chance possible, twice a month, occasionally, or when there's nothing else to do?
10. Have you or are you participating in a mission project?
11. Do you practice tithing? Does God get your first fruits or what's left over after you have taken care of your desires?
12. Do you watch Christian movies and shows on TV? Do you read Christian inspired books?
13. Does your lifestyle reflect the teachings of Jesus Christ?
14. If you were put on trial today for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? How would your family, neighbors, friends and co-workers testify?

So, how did you do? How is your spiritual health? Are you on life support, critical or spiritually healthy? While your physical health determines how long you live; your spiritual health determines your place in eternity. Here's to your health!

God Bless, Reuben

July, 2026, Issue 7

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

New singers
always welcome:



The choir is taking the summer off, but rehearsals will resume in August. We would love for you to join the choir.



Exciting News: We have reinstated our Handbell Choir, under the direction of Virginia Bennett and Drew Ammons. You are invited to join us for rehearsals on Wednesdays at 12:00 noon in the sanctuary, even if you can't read music. We will teach you – it will be easy and fun! Details to follow.



Mark your calendar for Friday, July 3rd from 5:00-7:00 for a fun and festive 4th of July Celebration. Good food, patriotic music, and entertaining skits. Plus, we will have patriotic services on Sunday, July 5th at 9:00 and 11:00.

Bible Studies for Everyone

Do you want to grow closer to the Lord in 2026 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's class is taking a break for the summer.*

MONDAY 10:00 AM: *Marie Donat is leading a class on 1 & 2 Timothy.*

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: *Led by Francie Larsen, studying "How We Got the Bible"*

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: *Off for the summer.*

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

PALMILLA: *Dave and Sue Duranty are leading a class at Palmilla on Wednesdays.*

JULY SECOND MILE GIVING



Our Second Mile Giving for July will go to **4Paws Pet Food**. In partnership with the 4 Paws Pet Food Bank in Corrales, High Desert is providing free dog and cat food to the clients of the High Desert Methodist Food Pantry each month on the first Friday. This ministry supports those in our community who are struggling to feed their companion animals. Because of limited financial resources, many Pantry clients give up their own personal food to feed their pets. Over the past year, we have been able to help our Pantry clients continue to enjoy the positive benefits of pet ownership by keeping their pets fed and out of shelters. If you would like to support this ministry, please mark "4Paws Pet Food" on the memo line of your check.

FALL BASEBALL OUTING

Please plan to join us on Sunday August 23 at 1:35 pm for a great time of fun and fellowship as we watch the Isotopes play the Las Vegas Aviators, the Triple A team of the Oakland Athletics. We have reserved 50 box seats in the upper rows of Section 115 near third base in the shade. Cost is \$18.50 per seat. The Church Bus will be available for those who need a ride. We will put out a sign-up sheet in mid-July.



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

Lt. Commander Kristina Scott, US Navy

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



FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

This year we will celebrate the 250th birthday of our nation. To mark this special event, we will have a church cookout and patriotic program on Friday July 3, from 5 – 7 PM, and patriotic worship services on Sunday July 5. For the cookout, we will set up tables in the sanctuary with a meal consisting of hamburgers, hotdogs, and barbecue with covered dishes and desserts. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The program will consist of patriotic songs and skits. On Sunday July 5 in addition to the traditional patriotic hymns, we will recognize our veterans and celebrate the fact that we were created as one nation under God. This is a great opportunity for you to invite your family, friends and neighbors.

New Distribution Days for the High Desert Food Pantry

***Starting on July 3, the Pantry will
distribute food
on the 1st and
3rd Fridays of
each month ,
instead of***

Tuesdays and Thursdays.

***This change will improve overall
management of the program and
facilitate the distribution of
food. (Plus, it's easier to remember
the days.)***



School Supplies Collection

During the month of July, we will be collecting school supplies for our local schools, Pantry clients, St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel, and Gallup Nazarene Church. As we all know there are many families that 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: You may place your donation in the bins in the Narthex. Thank you.



LOCAL SCHOOLS	ST. JOSEPH MISSION SCHOOL
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



Report from the Annual Conference

The 151st New Mexico Annual Conference was held June 11–13, 2026, at Western Hills United Methodist Church in El Paso, Texas. Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut presided. The theme of the conference was “Pruning for Clarity.”

Rev. Dr. Blair Thompson, Chief Learning and Innovation Officer for TMF, challenged the conference to consider new approaches to ministry in the changing landscape. She used the Lewis and Clark expedition as an example. They thought they were going to row their canoe all the way to the West Coast, but then they came upon the Rocky Mountains. They had to change the way they traveled by breaking down their canoe into a backpack and carrying it while they climbed over the mountains. They still got to the West Coast, just in a different way. Dr. Thompson also talked about identifying what might be “pruned” from our ministries and what “rootstock” should be preserved and strengthened.

There was a resolution up for a vote to sell the New Mexico Annual Conference office. It is too large for the current staffing levels. There are 22 office suites, of which six are occupied by full-time staff and two by part-time staff, and there is workable office space available elsewhere. The resolution passed.

Conference Chancellor Cari Neill talked about legal matters affecting congregations and concerns around the use of artificial intelligence platforms and the sharing of others' personal information.

The conference was informative and thought-provoking. There were lively music sessions and good discussions.

Patty Latter, Delegate

JULY 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SS = Sunday School JAM = Jesus and Music MS = MorningStar						
			1 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study	2	3 11-2 Food Pantry 3:30 JAM At HDUMC 5-7 Picnic & Patriotic Celebration	4 Happy 4th of July!
5 9 AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	6 10 AM Bible Study	7	8 Office Hrs: 9-12 9:00 AM Mission Committee Mtg 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 Bell Choir	9 NO EMMAUS AGAPE GROUP THIS MONTH	10 3:30 JAM At Palmilla	11
12 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship	13 10 AM Bible Study	14 6:00 Ministry Team	15 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study	16	17 11-2 Food Pantry 3:30 JAM At MorningStar	18
19 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship	20 10 AM Bible Study	21	22 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 Bell Choir	23	24	25
26 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship	27 10 AM Bible Study	28	29 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study	30	31	



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

Grover Donahoe	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	505-220-3839
Rod Warpole	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	505-332-9706
Lucille Few	920 Riverview Dr. SE Apt.#223, Rio Rancho 87124	
Norma (Vi) Ortega	BeeHive Homes of Four Hills, 13450 Wenonah Ave. SE, Memory Care Unit Bldg 104 Alb. 87123	
Pat McElwain	4536 Ambrose Alday SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	505-235-7484
Judy Ballard	Legacy Oaks at Azle, 1364 Southeast Parkway Apt.115, Azle, TX 76020	505-240-0912
Robert Wussow	The Retreat, 4100 Jackie Rd. Rio Rancho, NM 87124	505-350-3698



Tony & Sheila Smith	July 4
Ron Sanders & Janet Barnard	July 6
Del & Gay Smart	July 10
John & Lori Kottenbrook	July 12
Ed & Kim Smith	July 19
Paul & Rose Meyer	July 22
Matt & Taylor Clause DeBlanc	July 29
Mel & Faye Lora	July 31



Alex Pacheco	July 1
Barry Birch	July 2
Bob Enterline	July 2
Linnette Carlson	July 3
Grover Donahoe	July 4
Norma Mearns	July 5
Sandy Dewbre	July 6
Riley Siverts	July 7
David Zapf	July 7
Lana Packard	July 8
Carolyn McDowell	July 9
Gweneth Polhemus	July 9
Ellie Mueller	July 10
Shawn Colbert	July 14
Ione Harrand	July 18
Kai Warrior	July 21
Patty Latter	July 21
Warren Herrington	July 22
Kathy Hays	July 26
Dottie Hester	July 28
Earl Hester	July 28
Joanna Jones	July 28
Sanjay Rauri	July 28
Shirley Rexroth	July 31

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13

A Letter From St. Joseph Mission School

Dear Pastor Reuben and the Community Members of High Desert Methodist Church,

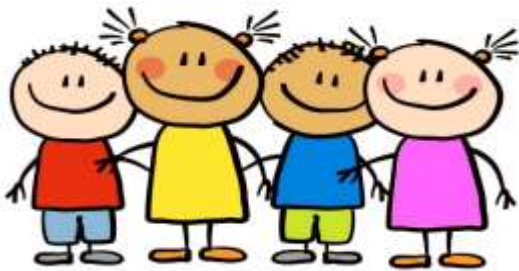
I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for your generous donations and work to support our school. I am always impressed by St. Jude's Hospital that asks for donations to support families that have children who are dealing with cancer and other severe health issues. Their mission is to provide care not only to the children but also to provide free services so families do not have the added stress and burden of finances.

For the past 8 years each of you as a faith community have done the same thing of providing scholarships, materials, Christmas gifts, food, work projects and now a major donation to help us repair our school bus, the recent work to provide living space for our new teachers and installing new sidewalks. We are truly humbled by your support to bring Jesus to our students. I can see Christ is truly alive in your presence and support by being His hands, feet and heart that demonstrates your sacrifice to support us. It is a testament of the Gospel of Jesus Christ lived out in each of you! Thank you for your witness! Know that you are in Lucinda's and my prayers as well as in the children's prayers when we pray each morning. May God's blessing be upon each and everyone of you today and always.

In Christ,

Antonio and Lucinda Trujillo and the children of St. Joseph Mission School

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 6 and Friday August 7. We will begin each morning at 9 am with a brief time of worship and music.

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. There is sign-up sheet in the narthex if you plan to attend.



Have you ventured into the church office and taken a moment to admire the beautiful wall hanging on the north wall? ‘Taken a moment to fully take in each piece of fabric, each stitch, noticed the design... and wonder where did this beautiful and unique piece come from? Who made it? What was the inspiration behind it? How long has it hung in the HDUMC church office?

In 2008, Kim Smith, a member of HDUMC made this gorgeous quilt wall hanging and presented it to the church. On the back of the quilt, the following is written on the bottom hem **“At the Cross, You Beckon Me...Draw Me Gently to My Knees”**

“2008 K. Smith for High Desert United Methodist Church”

This beautiful wall quilt has hung our church offices at the Meadowlark and Golf Course locations ever since! Kim and Ed Smith are members of HDUMC.

Kim has graciously agreed to share the story of how she made the quilt:

The quilt was made to fill a blank wall next to Miss Jenny Kottenbrook in the HDUMC office on Meadowlark. Any time a person entered the church office, that blank wall was their greeting.

I set out to make a watercolor quilt, using the shades of fabrics to design it, more than the shape of the quilt blocks. I'm a 4th (or more) generation quilter. I have boxes of fabrics that belonged to my great-grandmother, both grandmothers, my mother, and even my husband's grandmother. I also have several heirloom quilts that they made, completely stitched by hand.

Among the fabrics in this quilt are ones that were dresses my grandmother made for me as a child; shirts that my grandfather wore, made by my grandmother; dresses that were my mother's or that she made for my sister or me. The blues in the lower left signify the ocean and the greens in the lower right are the mountains; to me, the meaning is that God is with us, wherever we may be. The cross and flame are very dark, to stand out yet feel close in proximity.

It's tradition to give a quilt a name. This one is "At the Cross You Beckon Me". Those words are a powerful lyric in the song, "Sweetly Broken" by Jeremy Riddle. At the time I was making it, our son, Matt, was in the HDUMC praise band. What a joy to watch him play the drums and sing about God's love. The next lyric is "draw me gently to my knees, and I am, lost for words, so lost in love, I'm sweetly broken, wholly surrendered." It's a beautiful and powerful song.

The Church in Mission,



Muffy and other volunteers working at the Pantry



Linn and Marie work on the teachers' house at St. Joseph School.



Building sidewalks at St. Joseph Mission School

And in Service



John repeatedly paints parking lot stripes



Patty, Bruce, and Reuben represented HDUMC at Annual Conference.

**HIGH DESERT UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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

July, 2026 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for July, 2026 are:

Friday, July 3, from 11:00 to 2:00

Friday, July 17, from 11:00 to 2:00

July Collection: Canned Green Beans, Corn, Peas

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

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