

"Loving God. Serving Others. Changing Lives"

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

August, 2026, Issue 8

During the hot months of summer, I have fond memories of Vacation Bible School (VBS) as I was growing up in a small town in South Carolina. The population was less than 300, and we only had two churches, Baptist and Methodist, with each church attending each other's VBS. In the hot humid months of the summer in the South, there was not much to do, so we looked forward to each VBS. I remember having a lot of fun with my friends and neighbors.

Of course, the primary focus was on Jesus and the Bible. It provided an early foundation for my biblical knowledge and Christian growth. To be honest, I don't remember any significant differences between the teachings of the Methodist and Baptist churches. One of the teaching exercises that I enjoyed was sword drills. Some of you may have participated in these over the years. In a sword drill, each person holds their bible in front of them. When the leader calls out a Bible verse, everybody starts searching for it. The first one to find it steps forward and reads it. To be successful requires a working knowledge of the books of the Bible. Rarely are passages called from the four Gospels, it is not uncommon to be searching for Obadiah, Habakkuk, Haggai and Jude. Maybe we should do this one Sunday!

I also enjoyed singing, not just the old hymns, but songs like "Michael row your boat ashore." But my favorite activity was making birdhouses and shoeshine kits.

Did you attend VBS as a child? As an adult, did you help with VBS? Did your children go to VBS? What fond memories do you have? Since we do not have any children regularly attending High Desert, a few years ago we decided to institute an adult VBS entitled "Be a Kid Again Vacation Bible School."

Over the last two years, we have invited speakers who worked in the mission areas we support. However, this year we are not having any speakers, which will give us more time for crafts and games, in other words more time for fellowship. During the hot days of summer, many of us stay at home in the air conditioner watching old reruns on TV. Wouldn't you rather spend time with your friends having fun?

During our craft time this year we will be preparing bags of toiletries for the residents of MorningStar Senior Living. Following a time of games, we will enjoy lunch together.

Do you want to relive the good ole days? Then come join us on Thursday August 13 and Friday August 14 from 9 am – 12 noon. Let's have some fun! Let's be a kid again!

God Bless, Reuben

New Distribution Days for the Food Pantry

*The Pantry now distributes food
on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each
month (instead of on Tuesdays
and Thursdays as in previous
months)*

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. Reading music is NOT required for joining the vocal choir.

Fanny Crosby Sunday: Despite being blind, Fanny Crosby wrote over 8,000 hymns, such as "Blessed Assurance", "Rescue the Perishing", and "To God Be the Glory." Join us on August 30, as we sing many of her most popular hymns.



We have reinstated our **Handbell** Choir, under the direction of Virginia Bennett. Since we have been rehearsing for 8 weeks, those who read music are encouraged to join. (We might start another group at a later time for those who do not yet read music.) See Virginia if interested.

**Rehearsal dates for August:
5th, 12th and 19th at 10:00 AM.**

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 will resume on September 13, "The Thirteen Apostles," by J. Ellsworth Kalas.*

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: *Will resume September 9, studying "Luke, Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws", by Adam Hamilton.*

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.*



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.

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.



A Night at the Opera

If you bought tickets for the Opera trip on Friday, August 28th, and signed up to ride the bus, please be at the church parking lot by 5:00 PM to depart.

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 Brian Koa Yee, United States Air
Force

Lt. Devin Marshall, Ft. Novosel,
Alabama

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

CONGRATULATIONS to Lt. Devin Marshall, US Air Force



We join her parents, Doug and Elaine Marshall in expressing our pride in Devin's outstanding accomplishments in earning her wings, in June, at Ft. Novosel, Alabama. We will keep Devin in our prayers as she continues her Air Force career as a helicopter pilot.
Way to go, Devin!



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

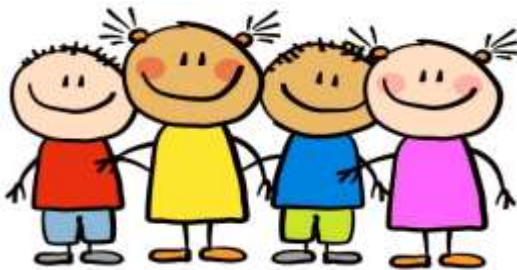
During the month of August, we will continue collecting school supplies for our local schools, Pantry clients, St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel, and Gallup Nazarene Church. As we all know there are many families that cannot afford to buy all the items required for their children's classes. While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

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.

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 13 and Friday August 14.** (Note change of date.) We will begin each morning at 9 am with a time of worship and music.

After a break we will have a time for crafts, making items for our latest mission project: bags of toiletries for MorningStar. 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.

The Church in Mission, Service, and Fellowship



Del Larsen and Gary Cowles, accompanied by Drew Ammons, shared special music at a recent Sunday morning service.



Don Hicks with the new steps he built, along with Linnette Carlson and Marie Donat, for the Teacher House at St. Joseph School



Sue Duranty and Kathy Allen painting in record heat at St Joseph Mission School



Mopping floors - now that's service! Good job, Carol.



Ron Komatz, Mary Ann & Barry Birch, and Drew Ammons serving the Lord in song



Carol Lamkin, Lulu Desanctis, Lisa Desanctis, and Gabriel Desanctis presented an inspiring 4th of July skit at our celebration on July 3rd.

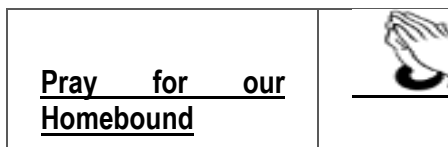


A packed house enjoyed 4th of July music, food, fun, and fellowship.

AUGUST 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SS = Sunday School JAM = Jesus and Music		FNMK = Feed New Mexico Kids MS = MorningStar				
						1
2 9 AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	3 10 AM Bible Study	4	5 Office Hrs: 9-12 9:00 AM Mission Committee Mtg 10:30 Bible Study	6	7 11-2 Food Pantry	8 2-3 PM Spanish Church
9 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship	10 10 AM Bible Study 10 AM FNMK Boxing	11 6:00 PM Ministry Team	12 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	13 9-12 VBS: "Be a Kid Again"	14 9-12 VBS: "Be a Kid Again" 3:30 JAM At the church	15 9 AM Celebration of Life for Dannye Bristow
16 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship	17 10 AM Bible Study	18	19 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study	20	21 11-2 Food Pantry	22
23 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship 1:35 Baseball/ Isotopes	24 10 AM Bible Study	25	26 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study	27	28 5:00 PM depart for Santa Fe for the Opera	29
30 Fanny Crosby Hymn Sunday 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship	31 10 AM Bible Study					



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



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



Gordon Golsan	Aug. 2
Cheryl Mason	Aug. 4
Ton Creveling	Aug. 10
Lou Williams	Aug. 10
Del Larsen	Aug. 13
Paul Lewis	Aug. 13
Rebecca Just	Aug. 15
Henry Hautz	Aug. 17
Judy Sampson	Aug. 18
Doris Donahoe	Aug. 20
Ben Kottenbrook	Aug. 22
Antonio Trujillo	Aug. 22
Jim Bauman	Aug. 23
Jana Siverts	Aug. 25
Lorraine Zapf	Aug. 27
Debby Dils	Aug.29

Some Thank You Notes

In years past, **Jim and Joan Bauman** have taken gift bags to Rio Rancho School staffs at the beginning of the school years and plan to do so again this year. Here are some thank you notes received from the schools: *"Thank you so much for reaching out and for your amazing gift to our school staff."* *"It's really cool that your church does this for our school community."* *"The bags were so thoughtful and we are so grateful."*

A Bible Passage to Live By: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."*

Proverbs 3:5-6

**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, 2026 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for August, 2026 are:

Friday, August 7, from 11:00 to 2:00

Friday, August 21, from 11:00 to 2:00

August 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.**
