

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

# HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

April, 2025, Issue 4

When we were at First UMC in Grants, we took 10 youths and 10 adults on a mission trip to Seward, Alaska. On our way home, we spent two nights at Saint John UMC in Anchorage. In their sanctuary is a 17-foot-tall Easter Totem Pole. For centuries, the Native Americans in Alaska have used totem poles to preserve their stories and events. In the absence of a written language, these carvings on cedar logs were the nearest thing that the people had to books. The characters on the pole provided an outline so that after hearing the story, the people could tell the story for generations.

Rev. David Fison and his wife Aleen and children came to Alaska as United Methodist missionaries in 1960. While serving as pastor of the church in Ketchikan, David became intrigued by the great totem poles of the area. After years of research into the local culture and the art of totem poles, he carved the Easter Totem Pole and a 12-foot Christmas Totem Pole.

Using depictions of humans, birds, fish, and mammals,

stacked on top of or within one another, the Easter Totem Pole tells the story of Holy Week from the Last Supper to the Resurrection. Starting from bottom to top, the Easter Totem Pole depicts the following:

1. Jesus washing the disciples' feet
2. The Last Supper with smoked salmon and berry juice replacing bread and wine
3. The Cup of Sorrows (Gethsemane) – Jesus' hands reach out to take the cup
4. Judas' betrayal – a necklace of thirty shells replaces the thirty pieces of silver
5. Peter's denial/wolf – the howl of a wolf takes the place of the rooster's crow
6. Pilate washes his hands
7. The Crucifixion – Jesus' crown made of a plant native to Alaska; set of beaver teeth dice
8. The Empty Tomb – a crack across the bottom signifies an earthquake
9. Raven (Angel) announces Christ's resurrection
10. Resurrection and Ascension - trifold hands represent the Trinity

I found the totem pole to be fascinating. I even bought a 27-inch model which I keep in my office. This

model will be in the Narthex during Holy Week. Rev. Fison took the traditions and culture of the Native American people of Alaska and told the gospel story. He did not compromise it, he just told it in a different way.

In a way the Bible is our totem pole. How do we tell the gospel story, the crucifixion and the Resurrection? Do we know the story well enough to retell it to our family, children, grandchildren and friends? During Holy Week, please take advantage of the different worship services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter morning. Join us for our Sunrise Service at 6:30 am and watch the sun rise over the Sandia Mountains. Also stay for some refreshments and our traditional services at 9 and 11 am as we retell the story of God's love and redemption through the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He Is Risen!

God Bless, Reuben

## Please join Women with Purpose

Thursday, April 3, 10:00 AM

This month we have two worthy projects. We will divide into teams as some



of us will assemble gift bags for Ruth's Closet. The others will assemble food boxes for distribution by



Pastor Chris at the Senior Centers on the Navajo Reservation

during her Bible study classes.



### **JAM Sessions** **(Jesus and Music)**

Join us on Friday afternoons at 4:30 in the Sanctuary for a time of playing instruments and singing some of our favorite Christian songs. Everyone is welcome. For details, see Drew Ammons or John Kottenbrook.

### ***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

Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Owen Garcia, US Navy

Cadet Master Sergeant Darien Garcia, US Air Force Academy

Staff Sergeant Brock Henning, US Air Force

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

Captain Brian Koa Yee, United States Air Force

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR: SPRING BASEBALL OUTING

Plan to join us on Sunday May 18 at 1:35 pm for a great time of fun and fellowship as we watch the Isotopes play the Tacoma Rainiers. We have reserved 40 box seats in the upper rows of Section 113 between home plate and third base. Cost is \$17 per seat. The promotion for May 18 will be *Salute to the Services*. The Church Bus will be available for those who need a ride and who sign up. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



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## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1201 Golf Course Road  
Rio Rancho, NM

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| April 13 | Palm Sunday<br>Worship Services 9 & 11 am<br>Antonio Trujillo Preaching |
| April 17 | Maundy Thursday Service 6 pm  |
| April 18 | Good Friday Service 12 noon<br>The Way of the Cross                     |
| April 20 | Easter Sunday<br>Sunrise Service 6:30 am<br>Worship Services 9 & 11 am  |



Come join us as we celebrate the Risen Lord!

## LENTEN SERMON SERIES

Lent is a forty-day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter, excluding Sundays. It is a time of self-examination, repentance, and spiritual growth for Christians. It is a time to ask questions: “What do I believe? Who is Jesus Christ to me? What is my personal relationship with Him? What must I do to grow closer to Him? During Lent this year, we will be studying the Book of James and the practical guidance it provides for living the Christian life in today’s world. During Lent, we will discuss the following:

March 9 - James 1:16-25 *Just Do It*

March 16 - James 2:1-13 *Does God Have Favorites?*

March 23 - James 3:1-12 *What Did You Say?*

March 30 - James 4:13-17 *You Are Going to Do What?*

April 6 - James 5:7-11 *Wait! I Said Wait*

April 13 - Palm Sunday, Antonio Trujillo Preaching

April 20 – Easter Sermon “*Good News from the Graveyard*”

## GRADUATES



High Desert UMC would like to present a Bible to each High School and College graduate as they begin a new journey in their life. If you have a child or grandchild graduating this spring, please provide the following information to the Church Office: student name, where they are graduating from, parent/grandparent.



## OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE

Who was Joab in the Old Testament?

*Find the answer elsewhere in this issue.*

## ***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 to grow in your personal relationship with the Lord is to participate in a weekly Bible study. If you are not currently participating in a weekly Bible study, please join one of the following studies:

**SUNDAY 10 AM:** Studying the *Book of Revelation*. Meets in the classroom and is led by Tony Smith.

**MONDAY 10:30 AM:** Studying *Pentecost*. Meets in the classroom and is led by Marie Donat.

**WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM:** Currently studying the history & backgrounds of our favorite hymns. Meets in the classroom and is led by Drew Ammons and Bruce Packard.

**WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM:** Studying *24 Hours That Changed the World* by Adam Hamilton. Meets in the sanctuary and is led by Reuben Thomas.

**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](mailto:coraleno@aol.com).

## **APRIL SECOND MILE GIVING**

### **KEEP THE BELL RINGING**



Our Second Mile Giving for April will go to providing assistance to St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel, New Mexico. Over the past three years, we have developed a great working relationship with St. Joseph. St. Joseph Mission School is a Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade Catholic School that shares the gospel of hope through faith, academics, culture, environment and service. Since 1923 the bell at St. Joseph Mission School has rung to begin and end the day, educating and spreading the gospel of hope to local children; currently there are 40 students from the Pueblos of Laguna and Acoma and from the local villages of Seboyeta, Cubero and San Fidel. Tuition is low and does not cover the total cost of educating a child. Even with their low tuition rate many families have to rely on tuition assistance from various organizations. The difference is made up through grants and donations. Several times in the 100 years of their existence, St. Joseph has come close to closing its doors, but a higher power has kept it open even when it seemed impossible. If you would like to help “keep the bell ringing,” please mark “St. Joseph Mission School” on the memo line of your check.

## **FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD!**

Following the guidance of Jesus in Matthew 25, High Desert UMC has made it their mission to feed the hungry as God gives us the opportunity. Currently, we are actively involved in four mission projects:

1. The High Desert Methodist Food Pantry provides food to about 200 families (approximately 500 people) monthly. With the support of monthly donations by the congregation, Mesa View UMC and Roadrunner Food Bank, food is distributed on the first Friday, third Tuesday and third Thursday of each month.
2. Feed New Mexico Kids which provides 450 food packages to five local schools so that at least 125 food-challenged students have nutritious snacks to carry them through the weekend until they are able to take advantage of the free meals offered at school. Volunteers purchase the food and gather the second Monday of each month to assemble the food packages.
3. For several years, we have been purchasing \$450 of food each month for the Interfaith Bible Center (IBC) in the International Zone in Albuquerque. IBC provides meals daily to the homeless in addition to showers and shelter. Last year we purchased a new refrigerator and freezer for IBC so they could safely store food donated by local restaurants and grocery stores.
4. We have been supporting the Gallup Nazarene Church's outreach to the homeless in Gallup and the elder residents of the Navajo Nation. Each quarter we purchase and deliver approximately \$2,000 worth of lunch food. A team of church members travel to Gallup to help assemble and distribute sack lunches to the homeless. In December, we purchased a new refrigerator for the church. Recently, the Lord opened another door of opportunity, and now we are providing 24 boxes of groceries to be distributed each month to the elder residents of the Navajo Nation.

If you are interested in starting a ministry to feed the hungry, it would be our privilege to share our experience.



As you can see, our Narthex is often stacked with donations for our various mission projects.

## PASS IT ON

On Sunday March 2, each person in attendance was given a \$10 bill to pass on God's love through random acts of kindness. Listed below are some of the amazing ways that our congregation passed it on:

1. Repaired a sick neighbor's pet door.
2. Cooked and delivered meals to neighbor following his hospitalization.
3. Bought food at MacDonalds and gave to homeless on street.
4. Purchased thank you flowers for building staff.
5. Bought socks, scarves, gloves, and hats.
6. Took neighbors to lunch for helping with yard sale.
7. Donated \$60 to Paws and Stripes.
8. Paid for 15 senior lunches at Meadowlark Senior Center.
9. Given to lady in dollar store shopping for weekly groceries.
10. Given to volunteer at Rock Steady Boxing.
11. Baked Bizcochitos for local fire department.
12. Given to a hungry man begging on the corner.
13. Contributed to Wounded Warriors.
14. Donated to Robert Wertheim Hospice House.
15. Paid for large grocery bill for person who lost her job.
16. Provided motel room for a homeless woman to take a shower.
17. Purchased and delivered cleaning supplies to an elderly couple.
18. Donated to Ronald MacDonald House.
19. Bought lunch at Dions for Sandoval County Fire Department.
20. Paid for lunch of family headed for Ronald MacDonald House.
21. Purchased Walmart gift cards for counselor at Maggie Cordova Elementary School to help students and families in need.
22. Donated money to Broadmoor quilting group for charity quilts.
23. Bought breakfast for school's English Department.
24. Donated to Girl Scout troop who sends cookies to troops in South Korea.
25. Paid for weed spray for neighbor's parking area.
26. Donated to Lakota children at St. Joseph's Indian School in South Dakota
27. Helped with end-of-life expenses of friend's grandson.
28. Paid for breakfast of couple whose wife was to have back surgery.
29. Gas money to hair dresser who volunteers at hospice.
30. Given to wife whose husband has been hospitalized.
31. Given to high school student to attend DECA competition in Florida.
32. Contributions to servers at restaurants.



# APRIL

# 2025

## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>SS = Sunday School</b> <b>MS = MorningStar</b>						
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Office Hrs: <b>9-12</b> <b>10:30 Bible Study</b> <b>5:30 Bible Study</b> <b>5:30 Choir Practice</b>	<b>3</b> 9 AM Fellowship Comm. Mtg. <b>10 AM Women with Purpose</b>	<b>4</b> 11-2; Food Pantry  4:30 PM Jesus & Music	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>9 AM Worship</b> <b>10 AM SS</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00 FNMK Bagging <b>10:30 AM Bible Study</b>	<b>8</b> 6:00 PM Ministry Team Mtg	<b>9</b> Office Hrs: <b>9-12</b> 9:00 AM Mission Comm. Mtg. <b>10:30 Bible Study</b> <b>5:30 Bible Study</b> <b>5:30 Choir Practice</b>	<b>10</b> 10 AM Emmaus Agape Gr.	<b>11</b> 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	<b>12</b>
<b>13 Palm Sunday</b> <b>9 AM Worship</b> <b>10 AM SS</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	<b>14</b> <b>10:30 AM Bible Study</b>	<b>15</b> <b>9-12 Food Pantry</b>	<b>16</b> Office Hrs: <b>9-12</b> <b>10:30 Bible Study</b> No evening Bible Study <b>5:30 Choir Practice</b>	<b>17</b> <b>1-4 PM Food Pantry</b> <b>6 PM Maundy Thursday Service</b>	<b>18</b> <b>12 Noon Good Friday Service</b> 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	<b>19</b>
<b>20 EASTER</b> <b>6:30 Sunrise Service</b> <b>9 AM Worship</b> <b>10 AM SS</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	<b>21</b> <b>10:30 AM Bible Study</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Office Hrs: <b>9-12</b> <b>10:30 Bible Study</b> <b>5:30 Bible Study</b> <b>5:30 Choir Practice</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>9 AM Worship</b> <b>10 AM SS</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	<b>28</b> <b>10:30 AM Bible Study</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b> Office Hrs: <b>9-12</b> <b>10:30 Bible Study</b> <b>5:30 Bible Study</b> <b>5:30 Choir Practice</b>			



# Care Ministry

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

<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>Mac Esquibel</b>	4544 Aguila Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-1469
<b>Polly Van Lenten</b>	920 Riverview Dr. SE, Apt 280, Rio Rancho 87124	979-277-4852
<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



Warren & Jan Herrington	April 11
Barry & Mary Ann Birch	April 15
David & Lorraine Zapf	April 24
Steve & Gloria Lamoreux	April 28



Bill Boss	April 1
Benny Giovengo	April 1
April Salisbury	April 3
Chrissy Knecht	April 6
Sami Knecht	April 8
Cami Knecht	April 15
Dirk Sanderson	April 10
Bill Mason	April 12
Wanda Giovengo	April 16
Mike Whelan	April 19
Pauline Walker	April 20
Gay Smart	April 21
Lori Kottenbrook	April 22
Nan Whelan	April 22
Joan Bauman	April 24
Trixie Maclay	April 25
Earl Van Doren	April 28
Taylor Clouse-DeBlanc	April 28
Vi Ortega	April 29

## ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES

IN THE BIBLE:

JOAB WAS DAVID'S NEPHEW WHO  
 COMMANDED HIS ARMY. HE KILLED  
 ABNER; HE INTERCEDED FOR ABSALOM  
 EARLY ON BUT ULTIMATELY KILLED  
 ABSALOM OUT OF LOYALTY TO DAVID. HE  
 ALSO DIED BY THE ORDER FROM DAVID.

FROM 1 CHRONICLES

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**HIGH DESERT UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

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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)

April, 2025 Newsletter

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## HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

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

**Friday, April 4, at 11:00 AM**

**Tuesday, April 15, at 9:00 AM**

**Thursday, April 17, at 1:00 PM**

**April Collection: Canned Meats (tuna, ham, chicken)**

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

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

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