

"Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives"

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

October, 2026, Issue 10

For the first time in years, we had our own individual Church Conferences on September 30. We thank Rev. John Schwarting for presiding over our conference this year. This was an opportunity for us to highlight some of the various ministries of High Desert. Thanks to all who attended and participated in the potluck prior to the meeting. For those who were unable to attend, listed below are some of the highlights from my report to the Conference:

1. I continue to be amazed by the enthusiasm and support of the congregation.
2. I am impressed by how many of our congregation volunteer in service for the Lord.
3. Weekly in-person worship attendance has increased from 117 to 125.
4. Thanks to Bruce Packard and Kent Hays for the new communion rails.
5. Thanks to Virginia Bennett and Drew Ammons for re-establishing the Bell Choir.
6. A dedicated team of lay speakers provide Sunday morning worship at MorningStar and at Palmilla Senior Living.
7. Providing weekly Bible studies at Fairwinds, MorningStar and Palmilla.
8. Since last Church Conference, 10 individuals have joined the church.
9. Continue to provide bus service to Fairwinds, other retirement communities, and special fellowship outings.
10. Fellowship activities included two Isotopes baseball games, Santa Fe Opera trip, church cookout and Fourth of July cookout and program.
11. Providing 30 boxes of groceries each month to homebound residents of the Navajo Nation.
12. Constructed new sidewalks at St. Joseph Mission School and Mountainside UMC.
13. Renovated trailer at St. Joseph Mission School for two new teachers.
14. Provided each student at St. Joseph Mission School with a \$50 gift card for Christmas.
15. Volunteers assisted in the renovation of the future home of Pastor Chris Davis.
16. Providing gift baskets to the staff at the local hospitals, schools, Fire Departments, Police Departments, residents and staff of retirement communities, and the homebound.
17. The High Desert Methodist Food Pantry continues to provide groceries and pet food to the local community.
18. Second Mile Giving to date totals over \$112,000.
19. Providing over 600 food packages each month to students at five local schools.
20. Purchasing \$450 of food each month to feed the homeless at the Interfaith Bible Center; provided financial support after fire damaged IBC sanctuary.
21. Two teams from High Desert served at the Asbury Pie Café on September 11 and 14.
22. AA Group is now meeting at church every morning at 6:30 am
23. Last year we sent 177 boxes to Operation Christmas Child; goal of 180 boxes this year.

Thanks for your continued support.
God Bless.
Reuben

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 & Cindi Bair leading, "The Thirteen Apostles," by J. Ellsworth Kalas.*

MONDAY 2:00 PM: *Not meeting in October; will resume on November 2 studying the Book of Philippians.*

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: *Led by Pat Socci, studying the Book of Job.*

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: *Studying "Luke, Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws," by Adam Hamilton, led by Pastor Reuben.*

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.*

A NOTE OF THANKS

"Thank you so much for all your hot, sweaty, dirty, exhausting and tireless work! We appreciate you so much for volunteering to help us keep our church functioning and safe. The concrete looks great and will definitely help us keep the sidewalks clear of snow in the winter. With many blessings, Ann and all our church community."

(Mountainside UMC)



For several days in early September a group of guys from High Desert replaced a crumbling sidewalk at Mountainside United Methodist Church in Cedar Crest, NM. Serving on this latest mission team were: Henry Hautz, Kent Hays, Lynn Hood, Bruce Packard, Ron Sanders and Reuben. They were joined by Ron's friend, Orion from the Jazz Band, and Sammy from Mountainside UMC.



Pictured above at left are Bruce, Henry, and Sammy breaking up the original sidewalk. Pictured above right is Kent using the jackhammer to break up the sidewalk. Our church family is blessed to have rotating groups of dedicated volunteers willing to step up when needed for projects to help our sister churches.

Operation Christmas Child

Shoebox Filling Days: Operation Christmas Child 2026

Three packing events are going to be held this fall in the church classroom:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Age</u>
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1. Tues. 10/6	10:00 to 1:00.	10 to 14
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2. Tues. 10/20	10:00 to 1:00.	5 to 9
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3. Tues. 11/10	10:00 to 1:00.	2 to 4
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Two volunteers will be needed for each of the packing events. If you would be interested in helping on one of the days, contact Patty Latter at 505-934-4346.

OCTOBER SECOND MILE GIVING CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS FOR ST. JOSEPH'S STUDENTS

St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel is one of our mission projects. This school serves 41 students from the Acoma and Laguna Pueblos. A few 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 have been able to give each student a \$50 gift card for the past three years. This has allowed the students to purchase what they really wanted for Christmas. Several students have used these cards to purchase gifts for family members and others. We would like to continue this successful mission project and plan to purchase a \$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.



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

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

Did you know we have an active

Prayer Shawl Ministry?



We are grateful to Cheryl Mason for her leadership and dedication to this ministry. Pictured at left is Jane Ferguson, wrapped in love in her new Prayer Shawl.

If you would like to help, or if you know someone who could use a prayer shawl "hug", see Cheryl.

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

New singers
always
welcome:



Choir Rehearsals are at 5:30 PM each Wednesday. Please Join Us!

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Our Hand Bell Choir is preparing several pieces of music to present in the coming weeks. We look forward to hearing "Sweet Hour of Prayer, Fairest Lord Jesus, Amazing Grace, Silent Night and Joy to the World".

OCTOBER 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SS = Sunday School JAM = Jesus and Music		FNMK = Feed New Mexico Kids MS = MorningStar				
				1 10:00 AM Women with Purpose	2 11-2 Food Pantry 3:30 JAM	3
4 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10:00 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship	5	6	7 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir 5:30 Bible Study	8	9 Gallup Mission Trip 3:30 JAM at Palmilla	10 Gallup Mission Trip
11 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship	12 10 AM FNMK Boxing	13 6:00 PM Ministry Team	14 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir 5:30 Bible Study	15	16 11-2 Food Pantry 3:30 JAM	17
18 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship	19	20	21 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir 5:30 Bible Study	22	23 3:30 JAM at the church	24
25 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship	26	27	28 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir 5:30 Bible Study	29	30	31



Be in Prayer for our HomeBound

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



Jim & Kathy Harrell	Oct. 2
Grover & Doris Donahoe	Oct. 12



Dann Meyer	Oct. 3
Kim Smith	Oct. 4
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
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
Kay Anderson	Oct. 29
Jim Harrell	Oct. 29
Robert Pacheco	Oct. 30
Steven Thomas	Oct. 30

I WILL LIFT UP MY EYES UNTO THE
HILLS, FROM WHENCE COMETH MY
HELP. MY HELP COMETH FROM THE
LORD, WHO MADE HEAVEN AND
EARTH. PSALM 121:1-2

Church Crew Neck T-Shirt Order

Name _____ Phone# _____

1. Ladies' _____ Men's _____

2. Navy _____ Aquatic Blue _____ Silver _____

3. Sleeve

a. Short – no extra charge _____

b. Long + \$2.00 _____

4. Size

a. Small-XL – no extra charge _____

b. 2XL-3XL + \$3.00 _____

5. Sleeve logo's (see available list below)

Short sleeve t-shirts only

a. Right sleeve + \$5.00 _____

b. Left sleeve + \$5.00 _____

c. Middle upper back + \$5.00 _____

Available Sleeve Logos:

1. Food Pantry
2. Feed NM Kids
3. Women with Purpose
4. Mission Possible
5. Missions
6. Music

Basic Price List (without add ons)

T-shirt. \$13.00

Tax .074375 \$0.97

Total \$13.97



Deadline for the order form and check is Sunday, 11/1

Make check to HDUMC - Church T-shirt on memo line

Questions? Contact Patty Latter at 505-934-4346.

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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P.O. Box 45378
Rio Rancho, NM 87174

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Office Hours: Wednesday 9 AM - Noon

Email: highdesertumc@outlook.com

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

OCTOBER, 2026 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for October, 2026 are:

Friday, October 2, from 11:00 to 2:00

Friday, October 16, from 11:00 to 2:00

October Collection: Canned Vegetables

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

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