

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

# HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

April, 2026, Issue 4

The first Sunday in April is Easter when we celebrate the Risen Lord. During each Easter service, I always ask the same question to those in attendance: “Do you believe in the Resurrection?” Their response will have a definite impact on their personal relationship with the Lord and eventually their place in eternity. The Resurrection is at the very heart of the Christian faith.

Over the past four weeks, our Wednesday Night Bible Class has been studying *The Case for Easter* by Lee Strobel. Using his extensive background as a legal journalist for the *Chicago Tribune*, Lee, originally a spiritual skeptic, retraces the findings that led him from atheism to belief in Jesus Christ. During our study, we examined the following:

1. The Medical Evidence – Was Jesus’ death a sham and His resurrection a hoax?
2. The Evidence of the Missing Body – Was Jesus’ body really absent from the tomb?
3. The Evidence of Appearances – Was Jesus seen alive after His death on the cross?

After all his interviews with world experts, Lee concluded that Jesus was crucified, dead, and buried, and that on the third day He rose from the dead. So, what do you believe, was the tomb empty? Did Jesus appear to over 500 people

following His resurrection? Do you believe in the Resurrection? It’s a personal decision for each one of us; one that we each must make for ourselves because no one else can make it for us. As for me, I believe in the Resurrection. I believe that Jesus Christ was crucified, died, and was buried in a borrowed tomb. On the third day, He rose from the grave, conquering death forever.

I believe that the tomb was empty on Easter morning and because of that I, as a believer, have been freed through God’s amazing grace from the grip of sin in my life, have the opportunity to have a personal relationship with my Lord and Savior, and also have the opportunity to live the abundant life that Jesus promised in John 10:10. *(I have come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly.)* I have no fear of the grave because it is not my final resting place. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and the empty tomb, I will spend eternity with God and my loved ones.

What about you? Do you believe this with all your heart? Come join us on Easter and every Sunday as we explore God’s Word and grow closer to our Lord and Savior. Every day is an Easter when you walk with the Lord. He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!

God Bless. Reuben



## MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

**Choir singers**  
**always welcome!**



The choir rehearses on **Wednesdays, at 5:30 pm**, and sings at the 9 am worship services. All singers are welcome. Come join us!

Since there is not a choir at the 11 am service, we enjoy selections by soloists, duets, trios, and quartets.

Drew Ammons, Choir Director, encourages new singers to provide music in the worship services. If you are willing to sing a special song at the 11 am service, please see Drew.

## **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 is leading a discussion-based class entitled: "Matthew Plus."*

**MONDAY 10:00 AM:** *Marie Donat is leading a class on Titus.*

**WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM:** *Francie Larsen is leading a class by Max Lucado, "More to Your Story."*

**WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM:** *Pastor Reuben is leading a class by Lee Strobel, The Case for Christ.*

**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.*

## **WOMEN WITH PURPOSE**



### **Backpacks for Blind and Low Vision Children**

Women With Purpose is taking on an ambitious new project. As back-to-school advertisements begin to appear each summer, we donate school supplies. But an often overlooked group of students needing back-to-school supplies are children who are blind or visually impaired.

At a Knights of The Blind meeting, Jennifer Gass, who is totally blind, described how her club developed backpacks specifically designed for blind students. Each of the 24 backpacks they distributed contained back-to-school supplies adapted for visually impaired learners. Jennifer commented that large print dark-lined notebooks, 20/20 pens and 1.5 power bar magnifiers were a huge hit with many low vision students.

Joanna Jones was inspired by the success of their project and brought the idea to the leadership of Women With Purpose. Then to identify the local need, the Rio Rancho school district was contacted. The response was encouraging. Teachers identified 15 students.

Plans are now underway to prepare the backpacks, which will be distributed in August at the beginning of the 2026–2027 school year. Each backpack will include specialized learning tools such as jumbo calculators, large-print rulers, bump-dot braille stickers, braille writing paper, and braille alphabet boards. All supplies will be new and purchased by Women With Purpose leadership.

Sharing successful ideas often spark ideas in other communities. A project like this demonstrates how identifying unmet needs can turn simple ideas into meaningful opportunities for children to succeed in school.

*Women with Purpose will be meeting Apr 2, 10 AM, in the sanctuary to assemble toiletry bags for Ruth's closet. We also have more information about this ambitious project. Please join us."*

## **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.** St. Joseph School is a Pre-K through 8 grade Catholic School that shares the gospel of hope through faith, academics, culture, environment and service. Since 1923 the bell at St. Joseph School has rung to begin and end the day, educating and spreading the gospel of hope to local children; currently there are 38 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 cost of educating a child. Even at 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 103 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 School” on the memo line of your check.

## **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.



## **SPRING BASEBALL OUTING**

Plan to join us on Sunday May 17 at 1:35 pm for a great time of fun and fellowship as we watch the Isotopes play the Oklahoma City Dodgers. We have reserved 45 box seats in the upper rows of Section 113 between home plate and third base. Cost is \$18.50 per seat. The Church Bus will be available for those who need a ride. There is a sign-up sheet in Narthex.

## ***The Church in Mission – at Home and Abroad***

### ***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



Gallup, NM

March 20-21, 2016



*Distributing grocery  
boxes to homebound  
on the reservation,  
assembling 95 sack  
lunches for the  
homeless in Gallup,  
praying with people  
on the streets of Gallup, with Pastor Chris Davis of  
the Nazarene Church of Gallup.*

**HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
1201 Golf Course Road  
Rio Rancho, NM

## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

- Sunday, March 29 Palm Sunday  
Worship Services 9 & 11 am
- Wednesday, April 1 Movie "The Last Supper" 10 am
- Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday Service  
Foot Washing (Optional) 5:30 pm  
Seder Meal and Holy Communion 6 pm
- Friday, April 3 Good Friday Service 12 noon  
Service of Nails
- Sunday, April 5 Easter Sunday  
Sunrise Service 6:30 am  
Worship Services 9 & 11 am

Come join us as we celebrate the Risen Lord!



***All are Welcome***

# APRIL 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>MS = MorningStar Worship      JAM = Jesus and Music      SS= Sunday School</b></p>						
			<b>1</b> Office Hrs: <b>9-12</b> <b>10:00 Movie</b> 5:30 Choir Practice	<b>2</b> 10 AM Women with Purpose <b>6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Seder Meal &amp; Communion</b> <i>(&amp;5:30 optional Foot Washing)</i>	<b>3</b> <b>11-2 Pantry</b> <b>12:00 Noon Good Friday Serv.</b> <b>3:30 JAM At Palmilla</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5 EASTER</b> <b>6:30 AM Sunrise Serv.</b> <b>9 AM Worship &amp; Palmilla Serv.</b> <b>10 AM SS</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	<b>6</b> 10 AM Bible Study	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Office Hrs: <b>9-12</b> 9:00 Mission team meeting 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	<b>9</b> <b>10 AM Emmaus Agape Group</b>	<b>10</b> <b>3:30 JAM At MorningStar</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>9 AM Worship &amp; Palmilla Serv.</b> <b>10 AM SS</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	<b>13</b> 10 AM Bible Study 10 AM FNMK Bagging	<b>14</b> 6 PM Ministry Team Meeting	<b>15</b> Office Hrs: <b>9-12</b> 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	<b>16</b> <b>1-4 PM Food Pantry</b>	<b>17</b> <b>No JAM this week</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>9AM Worship &amp; Palmilla Serv.</b> <b>10 AM SS</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11AM Worship</b>	<b>20</b> 10 AM Bible Study	<b>21</b> <b>9 AM-12 noon Food Pantry</b>	<b>22</b> Office Hrs: <b>9-12</b> 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>3:30 JAM At the church</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>9AM Worship &amp; Palmilla Serv.</b> <b>10 AM SS</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11AM Worship</b>	<b>27</b> 10 AM Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Office Hrs: <b>9-12</b> 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	<b>30</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>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>Lucille Few</b>	920 Riverview Dr. SE Apt.#223, Rio Rancho 87124	
<b>Norma (Vi) Ortega</b>	BeeHive Homes of Four Hills, 13450 Wenonah Ave SE, <b>Memory Care Unit Blding 104</b> Alb. NM 87123	288-2160
<b>Pat McElwain</b>	4536 Ambrose Alday SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	235-7484
<b>Judy Ballard</b>	Ridgmar Place, Apt. 3405, 2151 Green Oak Rd., Ft. Worth TX 76116	240-0912
<b>Robert Wussow</b>	The Retreat, <b>4011</b> Jackie Rd. Rio Rancho, NM 87124	350-3698



Warre & Jan Herrington	April 11
Barry & Mary Ann Birch	April 15
Dave & Lorraine Zapf	April 24



Bill Boss	April 1
Benny Giovengo	April 1
April Salisbury	April 3
Lorrie Hautz	April 4
Chrissy Knecht	April 6
Sami Knecht	April 8
Bill Mason	April 12
Cami Knecht	April 15
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
Robin Carlin	April 28
Trixie Maclay	April 25
Taylor Clouse DeBlanc	April 28
Earl Van Doren	April 28
Robin Carlin	April 28
Norma (Vi) Ortega	April 29

## EASTER FIND

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

- ACTS 17:27 NIV

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**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](mailto:highdesertumc@outlook.com)

We're on the Web!  
[www.highdesertumc.org](http://www.highdesertumc.org)

April, 2026 Newsletter

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## HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

**Distribution dates for April, 2026 are:**

**Friday, April 3, at 11:00 AM**

**Thursday, April 16, at 1:00 PM**

**Tuesday, April 21, at 9:00 AM**

**April Collection: Canned Meats**

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

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

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