

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

# HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS*

December, 2024, Issue 12

It's hard to believe but Christmas is just around the corner; how time flies when you are having fun. Or as a frog once said: "Time is fun when you are having flies!" Of course, the stores have had their Christmas decorations up since Labor Day. Many of us have already decorated our homes as well as the church. While the holidays are a busy time for Judy and me, I truly enjoy this time of the year with all the decorations, Christmas trees, lights, colors, and Christmas carols.

Also, when I think of Christmas, I think of giving, not receiving. After all, that's exactly what God did for us on the first Christmas. As stated in John 3:16 – "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." God set the example for us by giving us His best, the greatest gift ever – His Son. And because of that, we have His love, grace, forgiveness, salvation, and the promises of eternal life. Who could ask for more?

We just finished celebrating Thanksgiving. When you stop

and think about it, God has truly blessed us with family, friends, this church, and all the other blessings that we sometimes take for granted. But God does not want us to hoard these blessings; we are to share them with others. Billy Graham said that God has given us two hands – one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing.

I believe that it was Winston Churchill who said: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Christmas should not be about getting what you want, but about giving to others. Therefore, during this Christmas season, look for ways to pass God's love on by giving to others. For example, take a neighbor or friend to lunch, bake cookies for someone homebound, support Feed New Mexico Kids, donate toys to Toys for Tots, and support the Pantry and other organizations that provide assistance to the hungry and homeless.

Now there are many different ways to give besides financial support for the ministries of the church. One way is dedicating time to the Lord by having a daily quiet time, participating in a weekly Bible study, regularly attending worship services, and getting involved in one of the

many mission/outreach projects of the church. Is God the priority in how you spend your time or only when it's convenient for you?

To truly experience the Christmas spirit this year, we need to develop an attitude of gratitude. Look for the best in every situation that God puts you in, and in each person that He sends your way. Smile and share kind words with everybody, and don't forget to say thank you to those who help you at the grocery store, restaurants, and other places. And remember to say "Merry Christmas," not "Happy Holidays!" Let's be people who put their trust and lives in God's hands, living each day for Him and giving our best in everything we do.

During this Christmas season, let's focus on others not ourselves. Put God first in your life. Look for ways to help others and make their holiday better. Remember – it is more blessed to give than receive. Don't live to get, live to give! Merry Christmas!

God Bless. Reuben

## **DECEMBER SECOND MILE GIVING:**

### **FEED NEW MEXICO KIDS**

Did you know that many students in Rio Rancho are homeless and even more go hungry, especially on the weekend? A hungry child is twice as likely to repeat a grade; three times as likely to be suspended; and a hungry teen is five times as likely to commit suicide.

To address this need, High Desert UMC through Women with Purpose (WWP) has been participating in and supporting Feed New Mexico Kids, a local nonprofit organization, by providing weekend food packs to children in our local community. Currently, WWP and other volunteers assemble over 450 food packs per month which are given to over 100 students in six local schools. Originally, it cost about \$7 for each food package, but with rising food prices this is going up.

Our Second Mile Giving during December will go to the purchase of the food for these packs. You can support this worthwhile ministry by writing "Feed NM Kids" on the memo line of your check to the church. Thanks for making a difference in the lives of these children.

---

### **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**Midwinter's Promise** – Celebrating the promise of God's love found in the music of the season... the frosty air, the silent snow, the quiet frozen earth.

**WHEN:** Sunday

December 1, 2024 (Both 9 and 11 am services)

**WHERE:** High Desert United Methodist Church  
1201 Golf Course Road, Rio Rancho, NM

**WHO:** Scott and Irma Reeder

**WHAT:** Traditional Christmas carols from many countries, contemporary songs celebrating the season, haunting airs and hymns with roots in the Celtic heart of the British Isles, and foot-stomping Irish and American fiddle tunes. Scott and Irma will be playing the Celtic harp, mountain and hammered dulcimers, bowed psaltery, Irish tin whistles, renaissance recorders, guitars, bodhran (Irish frame drum) and more!

Come join us as we begin celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!



## ***Fellowship Activities***



*Coming Soon, January Fellowship Outing: Lunch at Millie's on Jefferson: Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. The bus will leave the church at 10:15 AM. Last day to sign up (& reserve a seat on the bus) is Sunday, December 29.*

## ***More December Happenings***

***Santa's Post Office:*** It has long been a tradition at High Desert to share Christmas cards with each other. In order to save postage costs, we have placed a little red "mailbox" in the narthex where you may drop your cards. We will distribute them prior to worship services each week. Of course, this is entirely optional, as you may have other ways to share holiday greetings.

***College Care Packages:*** Do you have a child or grandchild in college, in New Mexico or out of state? We would like to send them a care package of snacks and treats prior to, or during, finals week. Just fill out the bulletin insert on Sunday or notify the church office of the student's name and address and we will send their care package.

***Poinsettias for Christmas:*** We will be ordering poinsettias for Advent and Christmas services. If you would like to purchase one or more in memory or honor of someone, please complete the insert in Sunday's bulletin. The cost is \$8. The last day to place an order is Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. (Those unable to attend church may call the church office to place your order.)

---

## **OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE**

Who were Euodia and Syntyche in the New Testament?  
*Find the answer elsewhere in this issue.*



## **Church Library – Check it out**



The Christmas collection is back on the shelves. Wonderful stories to warm your heart. But one thing our library could use would be large print books. In fact, large print Bibles have been requested by readers at least

a dozen times. So make a new reading resolution: read, enjoy and pass it on!

( Many thanks to Joanna Jones for managing the library.)



## **Please join Women with Purpose**

**Thursday, December 5, 10:00 AM**

*Here is your chance to wrap yourself in the Christmas Spirit with fellowship, food, and beautiful music by Helen Korschgen.*

*As we reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, we will assemble and share 100 pairs of stuffed socks with the unhoused served by Pastor Joanne Landry.*

*You will experience a time of meditation and worship through song and service.*

**Come, and bring a friend!**

## ***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 Liberty, 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

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

- December 1 First Sunday of Advent  
Worship Services 9 & 11 am  
Christmas Concert  
Scott & Irma Reeder
- December 8 Second Sunday of Advent  
Worship Services 9 & 11 am  
Sermon: Don't Miss It
- December 15 Third Sunday of Advent  
9 am Service – Christmas: A Carol Cantata  
11 am Service – Favorite Christmas Hymns  
Reflection: Let There Be Joy
- December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Worship Service 10 am  
Sermon: He Brought Peace  
*Ugly Sweater Sunday*
- December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
Worship Services 4 & 6 pm  
Sermon: Home for the Holidays

*Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas!*



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

Join us on Friday afternoons at 3:30 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.



## ***Bible Studies for Everyone***

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:

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

**MONDAY 10:30 AM:** Studying the Apostle Paul's letter to the *Ephesians*. Meets in the classroom and is led by Marie Donat.

**WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM:** Studying the *Holy Spirit*. Meets in the classroom and is led by John Kottenbrook.

**WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM:** Studying *Act Like Jesus, How Can I Put My Faith Into Action?* by Randy Frazee. Meets in the sanctuary and is led by Reuben Thomas.

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

**ONLINE STUDIES:** Each week an email is distributed from Tony Smith on a chapter from the Book of Isaiah. In addition, you can participate in one of Tony's online studies on Daniel, John and Revelation at [coraleno@aol.com](mailto:coraleno@aol.com).



**DID YOU KNOW THAT "ONE OF OURS" IS GOING ON A MISSION TRIP TO COSTA RICA JANUARY 22-31, 2025?**



**Yes, Linn Carlson is "on the road again"!!**

She will be going with a team to work with a missionary, Lillian Solt, at Center for Health Education and Health Services (CEDCAS), Heredia, Los Lagos, Costa Rica. *CEDCAS promotes and maintains "whole person" health care which includes physical, emotional, social and spiritual health for all they serve. The services provided by CEDCAS create opportunities for creative Christian evangelism within the larger community and Costa Rica.*

The planned work projects include: 1) Renovating two owner-occupied homes in the shantytown of Guararí, to improve the safety of the home and improve the quality of living for the owners and their families and 2) to lead Bible stories, games and crafts for the children of Guararí during Kid's Club Saturday.

On this mission trip, Linn and a dear friend of 22+ years from Tenn. will be joining a team from Pennsylvania that has been going to this shantytown in Costa Rica for years. Linn is still getting information about what things she can bring to support this important ministry (i.e. backpacks for the children, work supplies, \$\$, etc. If you would like to support this mission trip – please write a check to HDUMC with Memo line note: "Costa Rica". Thank you! Linn



## The Church in Mission

### Operation Christmas Child



"I would like to send a special Thank You to all those who filled, provided items to go inside, or donated towards shoeboxes this year. Your kindness and generosity allowed for 158 shoeboxes to be dropped off on Monday, November 18. These shoeboxes deliver great joy and the good news of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world. Patty Latter"

Patty is pictured here with our boxes at the local shipping center.

### Thanksgiving Boxes for Haven House and Foster Families in Need

Due to your generosity, we were able to provide 55 Thanksgiving Boxes to the clients of Haven House and to Foster families identified through the Department of Children Youth & Families. Pictured here are Glynda Samford and Pastor Reuben assembling and filling the boxes. Each box contained a turkey plus mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, vegetables, cranberry sauce, rolls and pumpkin pie.

Additionally, the Pantry distributed 89 turkeys to their clients on Tuesday, November 19, and another 60 on Thursday, November 21.



### Fall Mission Trip to Gallup



On November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> a team of mission-minded folks from High Desert worked to help Pastor Chris Davis in her ministry to children and people living on the streets of Gallup. Gordon Golsan and Pastor Reuben took a car-load and a truck-load of food and water to Chris' church. There they were met by Linn Carlson, Emily Sue Chambers, Wanda Golsan, Sheila Smith, Tony Smith, Lou

Williams, and Lorraine Zapf. The team spent hours sorting and packing the water and food items into gallon-sized zip-lock packages. The next day they drove around Gallup distributin the bags and praying with the people on the streets. In addition, they distributed treat bags of school supplies, snacks, and toys containing Bible verses to neighborhood children. Another mission trip will be planned in the spring.



# DECEMBER

# 2024

## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>SS = Sunday School</b> <b>MS = MorningStar</b>						
<b>1</b> <i>Concert</i> <b>9 AM Worship</b> <b>10 AM SS</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	<b>2</b> <b>10:30 AM Bible Study</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Office Hrs: 9-12 <b>10:30 Bible Study</b> <b>5:30 Bible Study</b> <b>5:30 Choir Practice</b>	<b>5</b> <b>10 AM Women with Purpose</b>	<b>6</b> <b>3:30 PM Jesus &amp; Music</b>	<b>7</b> <b>11-2 Food Pantry</b>
<b>8</b> <b>9 AM Worship</b> <b>10 AM SS</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	<b>9</b> 10:00 FNMK Bagging <b>10:30 AM Bible Study</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Office Hrs: 9-12 <b>10:30 Bible Study</b> <b>5:30 Bible Study</b> <b>5:30 Choir Practice</b>	<b>12</b> <b>10 AM Emmaus Agape Gr.</b>	<b>13</b> <b>3:30 PM Jesus &amp; Music</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>9 AM Worship, Cantata</b> <b>10 AM SS</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	<b>16</b> <b>10:30 AM Bible Study</b>	<b>17</b> 9AM – 12 Noon Pantry	<b>18</b> Office Hrs: 9-12 <b>10:30 Bible Study</b> <b>5:30 Bible Study</b> <b>5:30 Choir Practice</b>	<b>19</b> 1 PM-4 PM Pantry	<b>20</b> <b>3:30 PM Jesus &amp; Music</b> <b>5:00 PM: MOVIE NIGHT At Church</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <i>Ugly Sweater Day</i> <b>9 AM Worship</b> <b>10 AM SS</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	<b>23</b> <b>10:30 AM Bible Study</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Services 4 &amp; 6 PM</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Merry Christmas!</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>3:30 PM Jesus &amp; Music</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>9 AM Worship</b> <b>10 AM SS</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	<b>30</b> <b>10:30 AM Bible Study</b>	<b>31</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>Phil Pittman</b>	C/O Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NW Albuquerque, NM 87120	
<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>Ella Jerome</b>	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	312-2992
<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



Rusty & Debby Dils	Dec. 3
Bill & Kay Boss	Dec. 23
Glenn & Sue Hinchcliffe	Dec. 23
Paul & Leuretta Lewis	Dec. 24
Jeff & Cindi Bair	Dec. 30



Sandie Fawcett	Dec. 2
Rev. Kathy Harrell	Dec. 7
Rose Meyer	Dec. 10
Cindi Bair	Dec. 10
Glynda Samford	Dec. 14
Gloria Lamoreux	Dec. 14
Rohan Ezekiel Gandham	Dec. 15
Polly Van Lenten	Dec. 16
Marlaine Gaylor	Dec. 16
Edna Billings	Dec. 19
Pamela Lee	Dec. 20
Dorcas Bithia Rauri	Dec. 20
Jan Herrington	Dec. 21
Bill Hobson	Dec. 21
Joel Salisbury	Dec. 22
Sue Hill	Dec. 24
Marie Donat	Dec. 26
Sity Roach	Dec. 29
Sara Hendricks	Dec. 30

## ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES

### IN THE BIBLE:

*EUODIA AND SYNTICHE WERE TWO FEMALE LEADERS IN THE EARLY CHURCH AT PHILIPPI UNDER PAUL'S TUTELAGE. HE ADAMANTLY ENCOURAGED THE BELIEVERS THERE TO SUPPORT THE WOMEN IN THEIR EFFORTS TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL.*

PHILIPPIANS 4: 2-3

---

## 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)

DECEMBER, 2024 Newsletter

---

## HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

**Distribution dates for December, 2024 are:**

**Friday, December 7, at 11:00 AM**

**Tuesday, December 17, at 9:00 AM**

**Thursday, December 19, at 1:00 PM**

**December Collection: Oatmeal (small boxes)**

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

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

---