

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

February, 2025, Issue 2

An essential ingredient of our outreach and mission program is our Second Mile Giving. Each month we take up an offering for certain mission projects.

Have you ever wondered what Second Mile Giving is? Second Mile Giving is defined as “a phrase used to describe a deed of charity or kindness beyond the demands of duty.” In Matthew 5:41, Jesus says: “If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him the second mile.” At the time He said this, Roman soldiers could force a Jewish man to carry his equipment or other things for one mile. Jesus is telling us to go the extra mile, do more than is expected of you.

The “first mile” of giving is for the general operation and administration of the church, in other words, administrative cost, rent, utilities, apportionments. and salaries for our three parttime employees (pianist, choir director and pastor). The “second mile” goes beyond the general giving and provides support for various mission projects that fulfill Jesus’ command “to love your neighbor as yourself.” Since we

each have different interests and favorite projects, we provide a smorgasbord of projects from which to choose. The Second Mile Giving for 2025 is listed below:

January: Navajo Reservation Relief Fund and Costa Rica (uniforms for students)

February: Interfaith Bible Center

March: United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

April: St. Joseph Mission School

May: Haven House and Feed New Mexico Kids on Mother’s Day

June: Gift Cards for Teachers

July: 4Paws Pet Food Bank and Collection of School Supplies

August: Hoodies for local High School and Middle School Students

September: Heifer International

October: Thanksgiving boxes for Haven House, Gift Cards for St. Joseph Students and Operation Christmas Child

November: Hams for Pantry Clients and Toy Drive for Rio Rancho Police

December: Feed New Mexico Kids and High Desert Methodist Pantry on Christmas Eve.

Of course, you can contribute to any of these mission projects at any time

during the year. Due to your generosity, over \$100,000 was contributed to Second Mile Giving last year and definitely made a difference for the Lord. I hope and pray that you will continue to support our Second Mile Giving in the coming year as we love our neighbors and witness for Jesus Christ.

God Bless. Reuben



OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE

Who was Malchus in the New Testament?
Find the answer elsewhere in this issue.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE:

Each winter we collect gloves, warm hats, blankets, sleeping bags, coats, sweaters, and new socks for the homeless. If you wish to contribute, you may place your donations in the bins in the Narthex.

FEBRUARY SECOND MILE GIVING:

Our Second Mile Giving for February will be for the Interfaith Bible Center located at 7501 Trumbull Avenue SE in the International Zone of Albuquerque where they provide daily meals, showers, and housing for the homeless. Matthew 25:35-36 states: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Rev. Joanne Landry serves a hot meal throughout the week. You can imagine that this is quite expensive as the numbers continue to increase. Over the past few years, High Desert UMC has been purchasing approximately \$450 of food each month to support this ministry. In addition, recently we purchased a new refrigerator and a new freezer to enable them to store donated food from local restaurants and grocery stores.

During February, you may contribute to this essential ministry to ensure that no one goes hungry by noting “Interfaith Bible Center” on memo line of your check to the church. Thank you for your continued support for the outreach ministries of High Desert UMC.

A Note of Thanks

“We want to thank you for the wonderful freezer. We can now fill the freezer with Olive Garden soups and lasagna. It will be so much easier. God bless you all for your generosity.” Pastor Joann Landry of the Interfaith Bible Center (IBC) located in the International Zone of Albuquerque.

In January, our church donated a new freezer to the IBC so that they can store and use the food donations that help them to feed many homeless people each day.

Audit Report – High Desert UMC

I am pleased to announce that High Desert United Methodist Church’s Finance Committee has received a clean audit from our auditors. The audit is a part of our continuing practice of open-ness and transparency with the Church’s finances. I want to congratulate our Treasurer, Sandi Keller, for providing the extra data required by the auditors and for demonstrating commitment to our Church and to financial accuracy. Also, I would like to compliment our auditors, Chuck Schmike and Robert Pacheco who shared their approximately 50 years of financial expertise, who shared their time freely to complete the audit and to provide recommendations that help us continue to improve our financial practices. Also, thank you, Church family, for your generous practice of sharing financially as we continue to fulfill our Church’s Mission: *Loving God - Serving Others-Changing Lives.*

Gordon Golsan Finance Chair

Please join Women with Purpose
Thursday, February 6, 10:00 AM

This month we are collecting new socks and underwear (in original packaging) for Locker 505, a free clothing bank for school children. Or guest speaker will be a representative from Locker 505, to explain more about this valuable ministry.

And we have an exciting opportunity to put together an additional project this next meeting which will bless and comfort many people. Come help!!



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.

Ash Wednesday

This year, Ash Wednesday occurs on March 5th.

Our annual Ash Wednesday worship service will be held at 6:00 that evening. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, which last for 40 days prior to Easter, excluding Sundays. Pastor Reuben plans to offer a sermon series on the book of James during the Sundays of Lent.

There are various ways to observe Lent. Some people choose to give up something during Lent. Look elsewhere in this issue for a new idea of how you can observe Lent.

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 1st 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

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 *The Sermon on the Mount*. 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 *Be Like Jesus, Am I Becoming the Person God Wants Me to Be?* 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: You can participate in one of Tony Smith's online studies on Isaiah Daniel, John and Revelation at coraleno@aol.com.

SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY



This year, the Big Professional Football Game, the Super Bowl, is on Sunday February 9. Over the past few years, many churches have held a Soup-er Bowl Sunday on the same day as an opportunity to collect food for their local food pantries. So, between Sundays January 19 and February 9, bring cans of soup for the High Desert Methodist Food Pantry. Think of the difference we can make if each person brought at least one can! You may place your donations in the bins in the Narthex.

Also on Sunday February 9, you're invited to wear the colors of your favorite college or pro football team. Let's have a lot of fun!

Following the 11 am worship service, we will have our second "Chili Cookoff." There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those who want to enter their chili. Also, you can sign up to bring a dessert or side dish to accompany the chili. Please join us to sample some great chili dishes and vote for your favorite. - A great time of fellowship before going home to watch the game.

The Church in Mission and Outreach

Costa Rica Mission



Linnette teaching children in Costa Rica

Linnette Carlson worked with a mission team in Costa Rica during late January. The school the local children attend is a **public** school but they require the children to wear uniforms. If a child has to stay home due to the inability to afford uniforms, then the family can be reported to social services (with some drastic results), since school attendance is mandatory by law. This is why siblings often have to share one uniform, with each child attending a ½ day of school. Thank you for contributing \$4,788 for the purchase of 37 uniforms at \$130 each. This cost includes: shirt, pants or skirt, gym clothes, and shoes, plus nominal insurance & fees.

MorningStar Worship

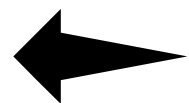
Each Sunday morning at 10:30, volunteers from High Desert UMC lead worship at MorningStar Assisted Living facility in Rio Rancho. Volunteers include: Emily Sue Chambers, Dave & Sue Duranty, Lisa Isenberger, Robert Pacheco, Bruce Packard, Frank Rotolo, and Tony & Sheila Smith. If you would like to be involved in this vital ministry, please see Reuben.



Emily Sue and Frank leading Sunday worship at MorningStar



**An Idea
for Lent**



FEBRUARY

2025

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SS = Sunday School MS = MorningStar						1
2 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	3 10:30 AM Bible Study	4	5 Office Hrs: 9-12 9:00 AM Mission Comm. Mtg. 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	6 9 AM Fellowship Comm. Mtg. 10 AM Women with Purpose	7 11-2; Food Pantry 3:30 PM Jesus & Music	8
9 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship <i>12:00 Chili Cookoff</i>	10 10:00 FNMK Bagging 10:30 AM Bible Study	11 6:00 PM Ministry Team Mtg	12 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	13 10 AM Emmaus Agape Gr.	14 Happy Valentine's Day 3:30 PM Jesus & Music	15
16 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	17 10:30 AM Bible Study	18 9-12 Food Pantry	19 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	20 1-4 PM Food Pantry	21 3:30 PM Jesus & Music	22
23 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	24 10:30 AM Bible Study	25	26 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	27	28 3:30 PM Jesus & Music	

Care Ministry

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

Phil Pittman	C/O Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NW Albuquerque, NM 87120	
Lorra Garner	Genesis, 9150 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq 87114	408-722-6482
Grover Donahoe	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	220-3839
Rod Warpole	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	332-9706
Mac Esquibel	4544 Aguila Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-1469
Polly Van Lenten	920 Riverview Dr. SE, Apt 280, Rio Rancho 87124	979-277-4852
Lucille Few	920 Riverview Dr. SE, Rio Rancho 87124	
Vi Ortega	Care Free 10916 Juan Tabo Place NE Albq. 87111	288-2160
Pat McElwain	4536 Ambrose Alday SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	235-7484



Benny & Wanda Giovengo	Feb. 14
Gordon & Wanda Golsan	Feb. 17
Dave & Sue Duranty	Feb. 20



Lucille Few (101 years old!)	Feb. 1
Norma Skinner	Feb. 1
Earlene Price	Feb. 3
Catherine Lujan	Feb. 3
Phyllis Thunborg	Feb. 6
Don Hicks	Feb. 9
Mark Isenberger	Feb. 10
Chad Jackson	Feb. 10
Lisa Isenberger	Feb. 13
Wayne Walker	Feb. 14
Virginia Bennett	Feb. 17
Karen Brown	Feb. 17
Dylan Smothermon	Feb. 18
Lily Smothermon	Feb. 18
Vic Holtgrewe	Feb. 18
Devon Marshall	Feb. 19
Ted Thunborg	Feb. 19
Bud Keller	Feb. 19
Charlene Brandt	Feb. 23
Jane Ferguson	Feb. 23
Albert Lofton	Feb. 23
Wilson Maclay	Feb. 26
Barbara Morgan	Feb. 26
Sue Duranty	Feb. 28

ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES

IN THE BIBLE:

MALCHUS WAS A SERVANT OF THE HIGH PRIEST, SENT WITH THE ENTOURAGE TO ARREST JESUS IN THE GARDEN. PETER DREW A SWORD AND CUT OFF MALCHUS' EAR. JESUS WOULD NOT TOLERATE SUCH A VIOLENT ACT AND SO HE RESTORED THE SERVANT'S EAR.

(FROM JOHN 18: 10-11)

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

FEBRUARY, 2025 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for February, 2025 are:

Friday, February 7, at 11:00 AM

Tuesday, February 18, at 9:00 AM

Thursday, February 20, at 1:00 PM

February Collection: Spaghetti & Spaghetti Sauce

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

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