

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

October, 2024, Issue 10

Don't you love a picnic or a cookout? I know Jesus would. He was always willing to sit and break bread with anyone. These are times of fellowship and great food. As I have said before, I believe that Methodists are great cooks. And we had some delicious side dishes at our Fall Church Cookout on Friday evening September 27 to go along with the hamburgers and hotdogs cooked by Jeff Biair, Jim Bauman, and Robert Pacheco. And of course, the tamales by the Spanish Church added to the enjoyment. Thanks to all who participated in the cookout on Friday. I'm already looking forward to the next cookout in May.

Church cookouts have become a tradition at the churches Judy and I have served. It started in Grants when we were appointed there in June 2002. The church in Grants had a beautiful yard under some large trees on the north side of the building. It was perfect for a cookout. So, in the tradition of old-time camp meetings, we occasionally had our worship outdoors under the trees with a cookout to follow. I would preach from a flatbed trailer.

Now on the first year, some of the members wanted me to

preach on horseback in the spirit of camp meeting. But they really didn't care about tradition, they just wanted to be able to slap the horse's backside and send me galloping into the sunset if I preached too long. One time, as I was preaching and I could see storm clouds rapidly coming from the south. The congregation was facing to the north and were not aware of the approaching storm. Well, that was the fastest sermon that I ever preached; I finished as the rain started falling and everybody was rushing into the church with the food.

We transferred to St. Stephen's UMC in 2009. We held several cookouts in the neighborhood park, Oso Grande, which is just down the hill from our house. The trees provided shade and the field was great for tag football. One time, the custodian didn't tie down the tables and we had them spread all over Morris Street. Later we couldn't get a permit from the city, so we held the cookout on the church's back parking lot. It was Hot! But we had water games and a dunk tank where people could dunk the preachers, which they truly enjoyed; I didn't mind it because the water felt great on that hot day.

We continued the tradition when we went to Socorro in 2012. Each fall we

would have an outdoor service and cookout on the New Mexico Tech campus under the trees as the students came back, with Scott and Irma Reeder playing. Twice we held outdoor services and cookouts on Dan and Carol Kloss' alfalfa farm in Lemitar. Our Saturday night jam session band would provide the music, with hay rides following the meal.

I truly appreciate all your support and help in continuing this tradition of church cookouts here at High Desert. With all the differences of opinions and bitterness in our country today, it is encouraging and great to see people sit down and share a meal together and grow in friendship. It has been said that a shared meal is a shared love. The fondest memories are made when we gather around the table. Dining together not only nourishes our bodies, but also our souls. Join us on World Communion Sunday October 6 when we break bread again as a family.

God Bless.

Reuben

OCTOBER SECOND MILE GIVING:

While Thanksgiving and Christmas are a few months away, we are already starting our holiday preparations. There are three opportunities for Second Mile Giving during October as noted below for helping others during the holiday season:

THANKSGIVING BOXES

For the last five years, High Desert has been providing Thanksgiving Boxes with all the items needed for a Thanksgiving dinner, including the turkey, to the clients of Haven House. They have indicated that they need 50 boxes this year. Haven House is the only domestic violence shelter in Sandoval County. They provide emergency shelter, case management, support groups, life-skill classes, legal advocacy, referral to job opportunities, housing and other supportive services, and therapeutic counseling for both women and their children. If you would like to support this ministry, please mark "Thanksgiving Boxes" on the memo line of your check to the church. We will purchase all the items and assemble the boxes.

CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS

St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel is one of our mission projects. The school serves 40 students from the Acoma and Laguna Pueblos. Two 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 were able to give each student a \$50 gift card for the past two years. This allowed the students to purchase what they really wanted for Christmas. We would like to continue this successful mission project and plan to purchase a \$25 or \$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.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

High Desert has participated in this mission project for several years, where members get a shoebox (any regular size), and fill it with toys, hygiene items, school supplies and a donation of \$10 for shipping and bring it to the church. We will take the boxes to Grace Outreach Church during collection week on November 11, for distribution to children in need around the world. You can either assemble your own box (instructions and empty boxes are available in the Narthex) or you can donate \$30 (\$20 for items and \$10 for shipping) to the church and Patty Latter will purchase the items. Last year we collected 133 boxes and our goal this year is 135 boxes. Please mark "Operations Christmas Child" on your memo line.

As you can see, there are several opportunities to give and make a difference in the lives of children and others in need. We hope that you will support at least one or all these mission projects. Your continued support and participation in the mission programs of High Desert is greatly appreciated.

A Thank You received from "Faith Comes by Hearing" – our August 2nd Mile Giving

Thank you for your congregation's gift of \$2,000. Through your support, God's audible word is available in more than 2,100 languages throughout the world. One military service person's testimony: "This is the best thing I have ever received. God's word encourages me and gives me hope..."

Church Library – Check it out



Thank you to our many church friends who have donated books to our library. We have so many wonderful books. Devotional, study books, Bibles, fictional, biographies, and meditations. When new books arrive, they are displayed. The rest of the collection is on a rotational display schedule. Keep perusing the shelves and enjoy our good reading material.

Women with

Purpose

Thursday, October

3, 10:00 AM

Assembling

**“Birthday in a Bag” project
for Saranam. All women are invited.
Come, and bring a friend!**



Recent Fellowship Events

On Friday, September 27 the church family gathered to enjoy food and fellowship at our semi-annual cookout. Thank you to all who helped with set-up, cooking, serving, and clean-up. There were 83 in attendance.

*Watch for more fun activities being planned
by our Fellowship Committee !*

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

Operation Christmas Child



It's time again to begin collecting and filling shoeboxes for Operations Christmas Child for Samaritan's Purse.

High Desert has participated in this mission project for several years, where members get a shoebox (any size will work) and fill it with toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. Then bring your shoebox to the church along with a donation of \$10 cash or check made out to HDUMC marked with "Operation Christmas Child" for shipping. All the shoeboxes must be turned in by Sunday November 17, 2024. They will be taken Grace Outreach Church the week of November 18, 2024. They will then be distributed to children in need around the world. There are empty shoeboxes available in the Narthex.

If you would like to pack your own shoebox: There are instructions on how to pack a shoebox on the back of the Shoebox Label which is out in the Narthex. In addition, bring a donation of \$10 for shipping. After all the shoeboxes have been turned in, a check for shipping will be issued to Samaritan's Purse and mailed to them. Then just mark on the label if it is for either a boy or girl and what age group, peel the label off and put it on top of the box.

A few requirements have changed this year:

1. Please don't include soap in your shoebox, some chemicals have been banned in some countries.
2. Put at least one rubber band around each shoebox, so it doesn't open during shipping.
3. Remove all packaging from items put in each shoebox. Some locations don't have a place to dispose of trash.
4. Shoeboxes can be wrapped in wrapping paper, just be sure and wrap the lid separately so that when they go to the regional processing center they can easily be opened for inspection.

If you would like for Patty Latter to shop for and pack your shoebox, please submit \$30 to the church and mark "Operation Christmas Child." The cost for each box this year is \$30 which includes \$20 for the contents inside the shoebox and \$10 for shipping. Of course, it is also possible for several members to share the cost of a shoebox.

Last year we collected 133 boxes. Our goal this year is 135 boxes. If you have any questions call or text Patty Latter @ 505-934-4346.

ASBURY PIE CAFÉ

The Asbury Café is a tradition of the New Mexico State Fair. For over forty years, volunteers have served homemade pies and ice cream to thousands of fair goers. Proceeds are distributed to non-profit organizations in the Albuquerque area that feed the homeless. Representatives of High Desert UMC volunteered Friday and Monday, September 6 and 9. Thank you to Janet Barnard, Linn Carlson, Marie Donat, Gordon Golsan, Wanda Golsan, Linn Hood, Lisa Isenberger, Sharon Johnson, Patty Latter, Bruce Packard, Earlene Price, and Ron Sanders.



OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



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

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. Will start on Monday September 9. Meets in the classroom and is led by Marie Donat.

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: Studying the Holy Spirit. Will start on Wednesday September 4. Meets in the classroom and is led by John Kottenbrook.

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: Studying *Think Like Jesus, What Do I Believe and Why Does It Matter?* by Randy Frazee. Will start on Wednesday September 4. 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.

Blessing of the Animals

*Saturday,
October 5,
At 9:00 AM
In the Church
Parking Lot
All pets
Welcome.*



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.

OCTOBER

2024

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SS = Sunday School MS = MorningStar		1	2 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	3 10:00 Women with Purpose	4 11 AM – 2 PM Pantry 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	5 9 AM Blessing of the Animals
6 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	7	8	9 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	10 10 AM Emmaus Agape Gr.	11 9 AM – 2 PM: Mission Workday at St. Joseph's School 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	12
13 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	14 10:00 FNMK Bagging	15 9AM – 12 Noon Pantry 6:00 PM Ministry Team	16 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	17 1 PM-4 PM Pantry	18 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	19
20 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	21	22	23 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	24	25 4:30 PM Jesus & Music 8 PM Spanish Church Pryer Mtg	26
27 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	28	29 Combined Church Conf. Rio Rancho UMC 6 PM	30 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	31		

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
Ella Jerome	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	312-2992
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



Jim & Kathy Harrell	October 2
Grover & Doris Donahoe	October 12

Dann Meyer	October 3
Dave Duranty	October 5
Wanda Golsan	October 6
John Kottenbrook	October 7
Rupendra Gandham	October 9
Tara Warrior	October 11
Kay Boss	October 11
Ken Dewbre	October 11
Helen Korschgen	October 17
Leuretta Lewis	October 17
Karen Malinka	October 17
Bonnie Chalfant	October 18
Usa Van Doren	October 19
Linda Bates	October 20
Mary Ann Birch	October 23
Joy Rhodes	October 24
Ron Fraser	October 28
Jenny Kottenbrook	October 28
Jim Harrell	October 29
Kay Anderson	October 29
Robert Pacheco	October 30

ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES

IN THE BIBLE:

PHOEBE SERVED THE CHURCH AT CENCHRAE, EVEN TO THE POINT OF PROTECTING OTHER CHRISTIANS FROM PERSECUTION. PAUL WAS VERY SUPPORTIVE OF HER AND OTHER WOMEN IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH GENTILES.

(ROMANS 16: 1-2)

(THANK YOU TO JUDY BALLARD FOR CONTRIBUTING THIS.)

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

October, 2024 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for October, 2024 are:

Friday, October 4, at 11:00 AM

Tuesday, October 15, at 9:00 AM

Thursday October 17, at 1:00 PM

October Collection: Canned Vegetables

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

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