

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

November, 2024, Issue 11

Over the past few years, the Albuquerque District has moved from individual Church Conferences to Combined Church Conferences. Our Combined Conference was held on Tuesday October 29 at Rio Rancho UMC with these other churches: Bernalillo UMC, Mesa View UMC, and Paradise Hills UMC. One of the disadvantages of this approach is that many of you don't have the opportunity to attend. Listed below are some of the highlights from my report to the Conference for your information.

1. I am continually amazed and blessed by the enthusiasm and support of the congregation.
2. I am especially impressed by how many of our congregation volunteer in service to the Lord.
3. Weekly in-person worship attendance has remained steady at 117 despite our “On the road” congregation and the rise in Covid.
4. Thanks to a dedicated team of lay speakers, we continue to provide Sunday morning worship at the MorningStar assisted living facility, with a weekly average attendance of 11.

5. Since last Church Conference, 18 people have joined the church
6. Conducted our second Be A Kid Again Vacation Bible School for seniors on August 8-9.
7. Conducted VBS type activities at the Nazarene Church in Gallup during mission trips.
8. Continue to provide bus service to Fairwinds, other retirement communities, and special fellowship outings. Thanks to our three dedicated bus drivers.
9. Baseball outings to Isotopes games April 28 and September 1.
10. Church cookouts on May 24 and September 27.
11. We are a mission-oriented church and have contributed over \$83,000 to second mile giving.
12. Constructed a deck to three portable classrooms at St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel.
13. Work days at St. Joseph on June 7 and October 11.
14. Constructed 560-foot fence around a future community garden at St. Joseph.
15. Provided each student at St. Joseph Mission School with a \$50 gift card for Christmas.
16. On July 16-17, a team of five ladies went to Gallup to assist Pastor Chris Davis of the Nazarene Church in her outreach

to the residents of Gallup and the Navajo Nation.

17. Constructed a new sidewalk and handicap ramp at the Nazarene Church in Gallup.
18. The High Desert Methodist Food Pantry continues to serve the local community.
19. Purchased 8 heifers, 10 flocks of chicken and 3 sheep for Heifer International.
20. Providing over 400 food packages each month to 60 students at five local schools.
21. Purchase \$450 of food each month to feed the homeless at the Interfaith Bible Center.
22. Two teams from High Desert served at the Asbury Café Sept. 6 and 9.
23. Last year sent 133 boxes to Operation Christmas Child; goal of 135 boxes this year.
24. Purchased two new upright coolers and two new upright freezers for Pantry

Thanks for your continued support.

God Bless, Reuben

NOVEMBER SECOND MILE GIVING:



CHRISTMAS HAMS

For Pantry Clients

For several years, High Desert has been providing hams for Christmas for the clients of the High Desert Methodist Food Pantry. If you would like to support this ministry, please mark “Christmas Hams” on the memo line of your check to the church. We will purchase the hams and distribute them prior to Christmas.

PASTOR’S BOOK REVIEW

During my vacation last month, I had the opportunity to relax and read three books on various subjects. One of these was *Are We Living in the End of Times? Biblical Answers to 7 Questions About the Future* by Dr. Robert Jeffress. Now while I have taught several Bible studies on the *Book of Revelation* and read numerous commentaries on the subject, this book provided new insights, some which I agreed with and a few that I questioned. “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.” – Matthew 24.42. These words from Jesus remind Christians that – even though we do not know the date when He will return – we need to have our finger on the pulse of what is happening morally, spiritually, and politically in our world. And with the increasing chaos, division, and war happening today, it is right to ask: “Are we living in the end of times now?” In this book Dr. Jeffress provides biblical answers to seven frequently asked questions about the future:

1. What does the Bible mean by the End Times?
2. What role does Israel play in the End Times?
3. What news events signal the End Times?
4. What are the major events of the End Times?
5. What’s the difference between the rapture and the second coming in the End Times?
6. Why has God delayed the End Times?
7. How do I prepare for the End Times?

Getting answers to these questions – and understanding the phenomenal events that are going to happen before the revelation of the King of kings and Lord of lords – helps believers face the future with hope and confidence. God Bless. Reuben

Tamales for Sale

**\$22 per dozen - sign up in the Narthex by November 17
Will be delivered to the church on November 24**

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

Are you looking for an opportunity to share your Thanksgiving dinner with friends? Then come join us for a potluck Thanksgiving dinner in the Church Fellowship Hall on Thursday November 28 at 12 noon. Iced tea and water will be provided.



There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for the dish that you plan to bring. We need someone to provide the turkey; see Reuben if interested. Take out boxes will be available so that you can take leftovers home. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a great meal and wonderful fellowship. Happy Thanksgiving!



Fellowship Events



Church Cookout



Baseball Outing



Blessing of the Animals

Coming Event: Trivia Day

Tuesday, November 12
At the church
2:00 – 4:00 PM

*Watch for further events from
the Fellowship Committee*

Church Library – Check it out



You made a difference!
Who knew we could fill the library bookcase so quickly. Our donated books are about Christian life and self esteem, prayer life,

Bible studies, and fictional stories that demonstrate Christian teachings in action. So many wonderful books to read and reread. You may even have a book at home that you want to donate in order to share it with your church friends.

Women with Purpose

Thursday, November 7, 10:00 AM

Assembling “Baby Shower in a Bag” for



**young moms
aging out of
the foster
care system.**

Candice

**Gould of New Mexico Heart Gallery will be
our guest speaker.**

All women are invited.

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 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

Sunday, November 17 is the last day to turn in your shoebox.

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 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.

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.

If you have any questions call or text Patty Latter @ 505-934-4346.

Asbury Pie Cafe

The Asbury Pie Café is a tradition of the New Mexico State Fair. For over sixty years, volunteers have served homemade pies and ice cream to thousands of fair goers. The proceeds are distributed to non-profit organizations in Albuquerque that are feeding the homeless. Volunteers from High Desert served pies and ice cream on Friday, September 6 and Monday September 8 from 8:45 am – 2 pm. This year they made \$75,000. After covering expenses. They were able to distribute \$64,000 to the following charities:

| CHARITY | PERCENTAGE | AMOUNT |
|---------------------------|------------|---------|
| The Storehouse | 12.7% | \$8,500 |
| Meals on Wheels | 12.7% | \$8,500 |
| Good Shepherd | 12.7% | \$8,500 |
| The Rock at Noonday | 12.7% | \$8,500 |
| East Mountain Food Pantry | 12.7% | \$8,500 |
| Silver Horizons | 14.2% | \$9,500 |
| South Alb. Coop. Ministry | 3.0% | \$2,000 |
| Family Promise | 3.0% | \$2,000 |
| Rio Grande Food Project | 3.0% | \$2,000 |
| Barrett Foundation | 3.0% | \$2,000 |
| God Cares About You | 3.0% | \$2,000 |
| Lobo Food Pantry | 3.0% | \$2,000 |



OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Who was Keturah in the Old 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. 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 *Think Like Jesus, What Do I Believe and Why Does It Matter?* 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.

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.



The Church in Mission



Antonio working on the fence



Lou painting at St. Joseph's Mission School



Our guys installing a fence for a community garden in San Fidel



Wanda, Linn, and Gordon harvesting grapes to benefit the school

NOVEMBER

2024

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---------------------------------|
| SS = Sunday School MS = MorningStar | | | | | 1 Mission trip to Gallup Pantry 11 AM – 2 PM 4:30 PM Jesus & Music | 2 Gallup Mission Trip |
| 3 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 4 | 5 | 6 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice | 7 10 AM Women with Purpose | 8 4:30 PM Jesus & Music | 9 |
| 10 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 11 Veterans' Day 10:00 FNMK Bagging | 12 2-4 PM Trivia Afternoon 6:00 PM Ministry Team | 13 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice | 14 10 AM Emmaus Agape Gr. | 15 4:30 PM Jesus & Music | 16 |
| 17 Last day to turn in Shoeboxes 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 18 | 19 9AM – 12 Noon Pantry | 20 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice | 21 1 PM-4 PM Pantry | 22 4:30 PM Jesus & Music 8 PM Spanish Church Prayer Mtg | 23 |
| 24 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 25 | 26 | 27 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study | 28 12:00 Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner at the church | 29 4:30 PM Jesus & Music | 30 |

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 |



Ian & Shawn Colbert Nov. 10
Brian Kassel & Joanna Jones Nov. 24

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Ciera Lucero | Nov. 1 |
| Dottie Thompson | Nov. 1 |
| Robin Foley | Nov. 2 |
| Lorra Garner | Nov. 2 |
| Jeff Bair | Nov. 6 |
| Drew Ammons | Nov. 10 |
| Marlene Fraser | Nov. 10 |
| Keith Witt | Nov. 11 |
| Charlotte Bullock | Nov. 17 |
| Gary Smothermon | Nov. 17 |
| Gary Cowles | Nov. 22 |
| Frankie Combs | Nov. 22 |
| Mel Lora | Nov. 23 |
| Bruce Packard | Nov. 23 |
| Sue Hinchcliffe | Nov. 25 |
| Laurie Smothermon | Nov. 25 |
| Laura Minoletti | Nov. 28 |
| Ruby Hunyady | Nov. 29 |

ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES

IN THE BIBLE:

*KETURAH WAS THE WIFE OF ABRAHAM, WHOM
HE WED AFTER SARAH DIED.
SHE BORE HIM SIX CHILDREN.
(GENESIS 25: 1-2)*

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

NOVEMBER, 2024 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for November, 2024 are:

Friday, November 1, at 11:00 AM

Tuesday, November 19, at 9:00 AM

Thursday November 21, at 1:00 PM

November Collection: Canned Soups & Stews

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

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