

"Loving God. Serving Others. Changing Lives"

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

September, 2025, Issue 9

My first appointment was to First United Methodist Church in Grants, New Mexico. After I had been there for a few weeks, I asked the congregation what ministry or service was needed in the community. Because there were three prisons in the Grants and many of the families of the inmates moved there to be near to them, one of my members, Marvin Rider, said that the community needed a pantry to provide food for these families.

I started looking for what opportunities were available in Grants. Then I went and met with Jim Harland who ran the Gallup Community Pantry, one the largest food pantries in the New Mexico. They were the representative of Roadrunner on the western side of the state. Jim liked the idea of opening a branch of his pantry in Grants. But first we had to demonstrated that there was a definite need. So, it was agreed that for several weeks the Roadrunner truck would stop in Grants and unload several pallets of food onto the parking

lot of the Methodist Church to be distributed to residents. After the first week, the number of people showing up continued to increase and it was determined that Grants needed a community pantry.

So, I started looking for a building and found an old laundromat that would work. But I could not find who the owner was. One afternoon a neighbor was visiting and I told her about the proposed pantry and that I had found a suitable building, but didn't know who owned it. She smiled and said: "I own it, let's talk." We purchased the building, started renovation, and began operating five days a week with three churches providing volunteers.

Last month, Judy and I were invited to the grand opening of a new building for the Grants Community pantry which is five times larger than the old laundromat with huge coolers and freezers. When I left Grants, we were serving about 150 families per month. Now they are serving 700. It's amazing how a small idea has grown and touched so many lives over the years. Remember God's words in Jeremiah 29:11 – "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to

prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

At the grand opening, several ministers quoted Matthew 25:35 – "For I was hungry and you fed me." Since my introduction to feeding the hungry in Grants, this has been one of the goals of my ministry. When I was appointed here at High Desert, I was delighted to learn about our pantry which I have seen grow under the dedicated leadership of John, Lynn, and Patty. In addition, we are blessed to be able to serve others through Feed New Mexico Kids, the Interfaith Bible Center, and the Gallup Nazarene Church. This year, we started providing boxes of groceries to the homebound residents of the Navajo Nation. Each of these started as ideas and have grown over the years and have touched many lives. I am truly grateful for your continued support for our ministries as we strive to fulfill Jesus' call to make sure no one goes hungry.

God Bless, Reuben



Blessing of the Animals
Saturday, October 4, 2025
at 9 AM

in the church parking lot

All pets welcome (except snakes!)



FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Fall Baseball Outing

42 people will be attending the baseball game on Sunday September 7 at 1:35 pm as we watch the Isotopes play the Round Rock Express. If you still need to pay for your tickets, please make your payment to the Church and mark "Baseball Outing" on the memo line of your check.

If you signed up to ride the bus, please be at the church by 12:00 noon on the 7th.

FEED NEW MEXICO KIDS

HERE WE GO AGAIN!! For the seventh year in a row we have gathered together monthly to assemble week-end food packs for students in five Rio Rancho Public schools.

More than 30 folks showed up August 10th to march around tables, fill 504 plastic bags with eleven food items, pack and stack boxes and then enjoy lunch compliments of Chick-fil-A. By 4:30 in the afternoon ALL food packs were picked up by our hard- working school counselors.

This ministry is a big commitment on the part of our congregation and many others who do not attend here. We can only do it because of generous financial support, hands-on help and a strong desire to do God's work when we see a need.

If you have ever considered helping us the second Monday each month, please call Wanda or Gordon Golsan (505-796-4929) and we will twist your arm. ☺



Linn, Elaine, Sue, Earl, & Glynda with some of the many boxes they packed.

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

Lieutenant Kristina Scott, US Navy

Lt. Colonel Ryan Stanfill, US Air Force, McConnell AFB, Wichita, Kansas

BE A KID AGAIN - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: BOY, DID WE HAVE FUN!



Drew and Chuck led us in a fun time of singing.



At game time, we had a blast getting to know lots of new things about each other.



Participants made bookmarks, beaded bracelets and pencil pouches to be given to children in need.



Tiffany Hollums gave an informative talk about McCurdy School.

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 is to participate in a weekly Bible study. Please join one of the following studies:

SUNDAY 10:00 AM: *Jeff Bair is leading a new class entitled: "Matthew Plus."*

MONDAY 10:30 AM: *Marie Donat is leading a class on Stephen and Thomas.*

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: *Francie Larsen is leading a class entitled "The God You Need to Know."*

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: *Pastor Reuben has begun a new class by Adam Hamilton, entitled Simon Peter, Flawed but Faithful Disciple.*

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

WOMEN WITH PURPOSE



On Thursday, September 4th at 10:00 AM, the women of the church will resume our monthly meetings of Women with Purpose. We will hear an inspiring talk by a guest speaker followed by a time of hands-on mission work. This month's project will benefit Locker 505, a clothing bank for school students K-12th grade. As always, there will be delicious treats! Come, and bring a friend.

FOOTSTEPS



This fall, Footsteps will reach a new milestone with our 100th podcast. Lisa Isenberger, Bonnie Korngiebel, Bruce Packard, and our newest member, Tony Smith, enjoy putting together short meditations on Jesus' message and how to live a Christian life. These messages drop every two weeks and are usually less than 10 minutes long. We try to draw on our life experiences to encourage each of us to build a stronger relationship with God.

By the time we post the 100th podcast, people will have listened about 2500 times, or about twenty-five listeners per episode. Each episode addresses our ideas on living a Christ-filled life when we cover topics like love, forgiveness, kindness, faith, transformation, second chances, and much more. Also, we discuss the stories behind some of the common hymns, messages explaining significant Christian events or holidays, and activities within our church.

As we reach this milestone, we praise God for all of His blessings. If you are one of our many regular listeners, thank you. We appreciate those of you who take time each month to listen to us and thank those of you who have taken the time to provide feedback. Feel free to suggest topics to any of us.

If you have yet to listen to Footsteps, we would gladly welcome you to hear Christ's message of grace and forgiveness. Joining is easy. Go to buzzsprout.com, [spotify.com](https://open.spotify.com/), or podcast.apple.com and search for "Footsteps by HDUMC". If you need help to find the podcast, talk with any of the Footsteps members or stop by the media booth after the service, and we will help you get connected.

HELP US CELEBRATE OUR 100th PODCAST AND SHARE THE GOOD NEWS! When you find an episode that speaks to you or you think could help someone else, share it with friends and family. Sharing is easy, so help us spread the Christ's Good News. With God's blessing and your help, we can reach those who need to hear the grace and blessing that God provides. Thanks, Lisa, Bonnie, Bruce and Tony

SEPTEMBER SECOND MILE GIVING

Our Second Mile Giving for September is Heifer International. Its mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth. Heifer International was founded by Dan West, a farmer from the Midwest and a member of the Church of the Brethren, who went to the front lines of the Spanish Civil War as an aid worker. He found that giving refugees a cup of milk was not enough; what if they had a cow?

Thus, the Heifer Project adopted the philosophy of “teach a man to fish,” by providing animals to families instead of handouts. The animals provide both food and reliable income, as agricultural products such as milk, eggs and honey can be traded or sold at the market. Families are empowered to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity. Since 1944, Heifer International has provided livestock and environmentally sound agricultural training to improve the lives of those who struggle daily. They have been in ministry for 75 years providing animals to 20.7 million families in 125 countries. The goal of every Heifer Project is to help families achieve self-reliance.

Your contributions will be used to purchase animals. The current price is as follows: heifer - \$500; goat - \$120; sheep - \$120; rabbits- \$60 or flock of chicks - \$20. Due to your generous contributions, we were able to purchase 5 heifers, 50 flocks of chicken and 3 sheep last year.

If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to the church and indicate “Heifer” on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your continued support to our mission program.

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE

Who was Lydia in the New Testament?

Find the answer elsewhere in this issue.



Choir singers needed:

The choir has resumed practicing on Wednesdays, at 5:30 PM. All singers are welcome. We are looking forward to an exciting year of music, as the choir plans to sing every Sunday at the 9:00 AM service. Any questions...see Drew Ammons.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

During the month of August, we collected school supplies for our local schools, Pantry clients, St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel, and Gallup Nazarene Church. They have been delivered and distributed and are already being put to good use. Thank you for your contributions.

RECOGNITION OF OUR VETERANS

On Sunday November 9, 2025, we are planning a special recognition for the veterans of our congregation. There will be a brochure listing all of our veterans in the bulletin. If you are a veteran, please provide the following information to the Church Office or Reuben. To ensure accurately, please print or type.

NAME: _____

EMAIL OR PHONE NUMBER: _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____

SERVICE TIME: From _____ to _____

Also, if you are willing to share the following (optional):

RANK AT TIME OF DISCHARGE: _____

METALS & AWARDS RECEIVED: _____

SERVED AT FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:



WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY



Our Wednesday night Bible Study meets at 5:30 pm. We have recently begun a six-week study of Adam Hamilton's book *Simon Peter, Flawed but Faithful Disciple*. While Simon Peter's shortcomings are clearly on display in the Gospels, so also are his courage, his determination, and his longing to follow Jesus even if it costs him his life. The Early Church knew how his story ended after his dramatic denial of Jesus on the night Jesus was arrested. Following Jesus' resurrection and ascension, Peter would, in fact, become the rock upon which the church was built. He would carry his cross to follow Jesus. He would lay down his life for the gospel. While in Peter's flaws Christians might see themselves, they might also see themselves in the moments of Peter's courage and faithfulness, and ultimately, they might see in him a picture of what they might aspire to be when empowered and led by the Spirit. Please join us as we explore Peter's life.

The Church in Mission



Linn Carlson is looking to serve again on the **2026 Costa Rica Mission Trip in January next year**. She has also been offered an opportunity to work again with some people that she previously served with in St. Croix USVI...this time responding to the rebuilding needs resulting from the **Lahaina fires on Maui, Hawaii**. She will be serving 3 weeks on the island from 11/29-12/20/2025.

Costa Rica Trip Focus for 2026: There are two work projects proposed for this Mission Trip.

Christian Camp: Renovations and upgrades to Camp Roblealto, a Christian camp established by the Latin America Mission 60 years ago. The improvements will help the camp as they continue to spread the Gospel to children and families year-round. The work will include general maintenance to the camp, cabins and the lodge. Our 2024 Mission Team worked at this camp.

House Repairs in Guararí: The team will renovate an owner-occupied home in the shantytown of Guararí. These improvements include painting, electrical work and other upgrades needed to improve the safety of the home and improve the quality of living for the owners and their families. This project would be very similar to the projects we undertook with our teams in 2023 and 2025. Details of the exact work to be done will be determined shortly before we arrive.

Seeds of Love Children's Program: We will lead a morning of Bible stories, games and crafts for the children of Guararí on the Saturday we are in country.

MAUI, HAWAII: The Hawaiian town of Lahaina experienced the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century in **August 2023**, which killed 102 people, left 13,000 homeless, destroyed 2,000 buildings and turned the town into ashes. The goal of the recovery effort "is to restore hope for survivors of disaster by recruiting, organizing and empowering volunteers to repair and rebuild homes impacted by the disaster.in " Teams have been working diligently since the disaster and are focused on new construction for homes.



Scene of destruction in Maui

SEPTEMBER 2025

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day <i>(No Bible Study)</i>	2	3 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir	4 10:00 AM- Women with Purpose	5 11:00-2:00 Food Pantry 4:30 PM JAM (Jesus and Music)	6
7 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship 1:35 Isotopes Baseball Game	8 10:00 Feed NM Kids 10:30 AM Bible Study	9 6:00 PM Ministry Team Mtg	10 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir	11 10:00-12:00 Emmaus Agape Group	12 4:30 PM JAM	13
14 9 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	15 10:30 AM Bible Study	16 9-12 Food Pantry	17 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir	18 1-4 PM Food Pantry	19 4:30 PM JAM	20
21 9 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	22 10:30 AM Bible Study	23	24 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir	25	26 4:30 PM JAM	27
28 9 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	29 10:30 AM Bible Study	30	MS = MorningStar Worship JAM = Jesus and Music			

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It's time 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 16, 2025. They will be taken to Vision City Church the week of November 17, 2025. They will then be distributed to children in need around the world. There are empty shoeboxes available in the Narthex, please take as many as you would like to fill.

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. Put a note on the cash "Operation Christmas Child" or put it in an envelope with the same note, then put it in the Collection Plate. After all the shoeboxes have been turned in, a check for shipping will be issued to Samaritan's Purse for the total number of boxes x the \$10 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.

There are a few requirements:

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 is \$30 which includes \$20 for the contents inside the shoebox and \$10 for shipping.

Last year we collected 158 boxes. Our goal this year is 160 boxes.

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

Pantry Volunteers



Thank you to the 10 dedicated volunteers who served the 33 Food Pantry clients who trickled in all day. Your hard work is noticed and appreciated. Thank you to John who distributed school supplies. Patty

Do you Know Your Hymns?

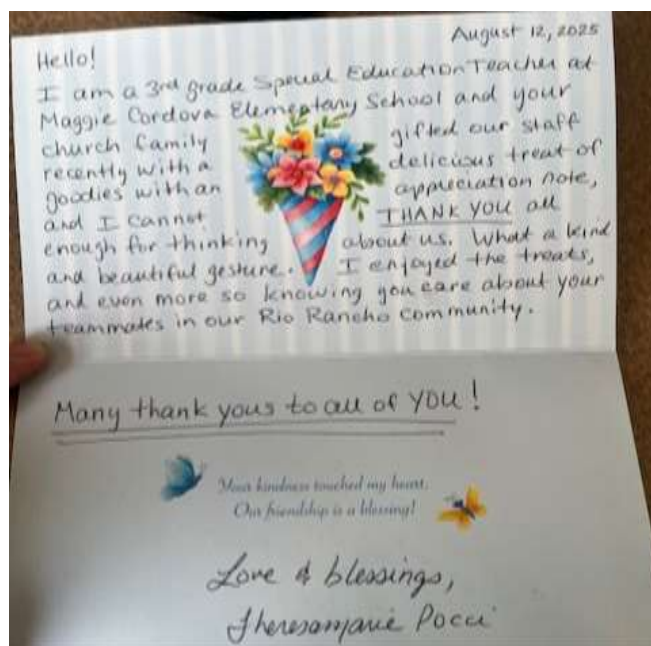
Dentist's Hymn:	Crown Him with Many Crowns
Weatherman's Hymn:	There Shall be Showers of Blessings
Contractor's Hymn:	The Church is One Foundation
Tailor's Hymn:	Holy, Holy, Holy
Golfer's Hymn:	There's a Green Hill Far Away
Politician's Hymn:	Standing on the Promises
Optometrist's Hymn:	Open My Eyes That I May See
IRS Agent's Hymn:	I Surrender All
Gossip's Hymn:	Pass It On
Electrician's Hymn:	Send the Light
Shopper's Hymn:	Sweet By and By
Realtor's Hymn:	I've Got a Mansion Just Over the Hilltop
Massage Therapist's Hymn:	He Touched Me

And, for those who speed on the highways, a few hymns:

55 miles per hour:	God Will Take Care of You
75 mph:	Nearer My God to Thee
85 mph:	This World is Not My Home
95 mph:	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph:	Precious Memories

Baskets of Appreciation

Below is a thank you note received in appreciation of the gift of treats that High Desert delivered to the teachers and staffs of schools in Rio Rancho at the beginning of this school year. Our gift basket team is led by Jim & Joan Bauman with capable assistance from many others. What a great way for our church to reach out and show Christ's love to our local community.



Care Ministry

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

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
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
Judy Ballard	Ridgmar Place, Apt. 3405, 2151 Green Oak Rd., Ft. Worth TX 76116	240-0912



Earl & Usa Van Doren	September 7
Steve & Helen Korschgen	September 11
Dan & Robin Foley	September 12
Gary & Joyce Cowles	September 18
Joel & April Salisbury	September 18
Bill & Cheryl Mason	September 25
Richard & Carolyn McDowell	September 29

Joey Archuleta	Sep. 2
Mike Bates	Sep. 2
Sheryl Clouse	Sep. 3
Paul Meyer	Sep. 3
Steve Knecht	Sep. 5
Francie Larsen	Sep. 7
Levi Charles	Sep. 7
Glenn Hinchcliffe	Sep. 11
Grace Pacheco	Sep. 13
Margaret Todman	Sep. 17
Lynn Hood	Sep. 19
Sheila Smith	Sep. 21
Emily Sue Chambers	Sep. 24
Harry Combs	Sep. 24
Steve Korschgen	Sep. 27
Steve Lamoreux	Sep. 28
Bill Schremko	Sep. 29

ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE:

*LYDIA WAS A CHRISTIAN BUSINESS WOMAN
CONSIDERED TO BE THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CONVERT IN
EUROPE. SHE WAS A SELLER OF PURPLE CLOTH. SHE
OPENED HER HOME TO PAUL AND SILAS.
(ACTS 16:40)*

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Office Hours: Wednesday 9 AM - Noon

Email: highdesertumc@outlook.com

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

September, 2025 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for September, 2025 are:

Friday, September 5, at 11:00 AM

Tuesday, September 16, at 9:00 AM

Thursday, September 18, at 1:00 PM

September Collection: Canned Fruits

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

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