

*“Changing One Life at a Time”*

# HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*REUBEN’S RAMBLINGS*

April 2021, Issue 4

We are almost at the end of our journey through Lent. Over the past few weeks, we have been studying the Beatitudes as recorded in the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, verses 1-12. We have been asking ourselves three critical questions: “Who is Jesus Christ to me?” “What is my personal relationship with Him?” and “What must I do to grow closer to Him?” It is my hope and prayer that these discussions have helped you in your walk with the Lord. I also hope that you will join us for the Maundy Thursday Service on April 1 at 6 pm when we will have a short drama focusing on how Peter, John and Judas viewed the first Lord’s Supper. Then join us the next day April 2 at 12 noon for our Good Friday Service entitled “The Way of the Cross.” This service is based on the Stations of the Cross – a devotion developed in the Middle Ages by the Franciscans as a way of allowing people who could not travel to the Holy Land to walk where Christ walked on the day of His crucifixion. And I do hope that you will join us on Easter morning April 4 as we celebrate the Risen Lord. We will begin

with a Sunrise Service in the church parking lot at 6:30 am. Since we will be outside in the fresh air, I have been told that we can all sing those wonderful Easter hymns! However, if you cannot get up that early, please join us for either the 9 am or 11 am worship services. There is no place like church on Easter!

Well, spring is here; we’re in Daylight Saving Time, the trees are starting to bloom, the wind is howling, the pollen count is through the roof, and it’s spring-cleaning time. This is the time of the year when we start thinking about all those projects that we put off during the cold winter months. Unfortunately, as we get older, we are not able to do all the things we did earlier in life such as climb a ladder. To help those of us who are not able to do some of the routine maintenance on our homes, High Desert is planning to establish a work team called “Helping Hands.”

Here are some possible tasks that this team could help you with:

1. Switching from heat to swamp cooler
2. Yard work – trimming bushes, raking leaves, planting flowers, etc.

3. Cleaning garage; hauling trash away
4. Moving furniture
5. Minor repairs; painting
6. Computer assistance
7. Shade tree mechanic

If you would like to be part of this team, please let me know. And if you need help with some of the above tasks, please let me know. Don’t hesitate calling; remember we are all part of the church family and we are here to help each other.

As you clean your garage or house, you may find some things that you don’t need anymore and are looking for a place to donate them. About ten years ago, the Albuquerque District established a Free Store in the North Valley where we distribute used furniture, appliances, household items and clothes to those in need. I can pick up any donations that you have for the Free Store. God Bless.

*Reuben*



## What Does Easter Mean To Me?

By Judy Ballard

When I was a kid, Easter meant giving something up for Lent. Didn't know much about Lent, just a time to give something up. I vaguely remember something about bubble gum. The neighborhood kids used to scour the roadside for glass Coke bottles to turn them into cash at Blanchard's service station at 1 cent each. Bubble gum was 2 for a penny. Ah, but those memories are nearly 7 decades old.

I've learned a few things about Lent, Easter, and Resurrection since then. As an adult, Lent represented a time for personal sacrifice for the forty days preceding the Resurrection. And I'm ashamed to say, I didn't always select something that truly represented a *sacrifice*. Until the year my husband Jim and I decided to take on a task instead of giving something up. It was a sacrifice of our time, after all. We (separately) decided to read the Bible every morning before we did anything else. Our aim was to apply that day's message to our day.

I'll never forget the Monday after Easter Sunday when I made the remark to him, "Well, you can go back to your old regular routine now." I meant to say, we had been successful in our pledge and we were done with the effort. All is good.

But Jim was quiet for a moment, very unlike him. Then he said, "What if I want to be a better person? From here on out?"

I was at a total loss for a reply. That was many years ago, and that phrase still rings in my memory and brings tears to my heart. I want to be a better person, from here on out. And I want to start right now. And never stop. I want to serve my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ every minute of every day, if I can. He gave so much for me.



# Southern HUMMINGBIRD CAKE



Makes a 9 inch, 3-layer cake

## Ingredients:

3	cups	All-Purpose Flour
2	cups	Sugar
1	tsp	Salt
1	tsp	Baking Soda
1	tsp	Cinnamon
3		Eggs, beaten
1-1/2	cups	Vegetable Oil
1-1/2	tsp	Vanilla extract
1	8oz can	Crushed Pineapple, undrained
2	cups	Pecan halves, toasted
2	cups	Chopped Banana (3-4 bananas)

## FROSTING:

16	oz	Cream Cheese, softened
1	cup	Butter, softened
1	tsp	Vanilla extract
2	cups	Powdered Sugar, sifted

## Prep Work:

- Pre-heat your oven to 350 degrees.
- Toast the pecan halves on a baking sheet for approx 10 minutes, stirring once or twice until aromatic. Let cool. Set aside 12 halves for decorating the cake. Chop the remaining pecans into small pieces.
- Grease and flour 3 - 9 in. round cake pans.  
Optional: To insure easy release from the pan, line the bottoms with parchment paper (after greasing but before dusting with flour).
- Chop Bananas and set aside.



## Instructions:

1. In a large bowl, whisk together the dry ingredients (Flour, Sugar, Salt, Baking Soda & Cinnamon).
2. Stir in the wet ingredients (Eggs, Vegetable Oil, Vanilla and Crushed Pineapple with juice).
3. Stir in the chopped Bananas and the chopped Pecans just until combined.
4. Spoon batter evenly into the 3 pans.
5. Bake at 350 for 25 - 30 minutes, until a toothpick comes out clean in the center.
6. Cool cakes in the pans for 10 minutes. Remove from pans and cool completely (about 1 hour).
7. MAKE THE FROSTING: Beat the Cream Cheese and Butter until fluffy. Beat in the Vanilla. Gradually beat in the sifted Powdered Sugar.
8. Use the frosting to fill and frost the cake. Decorate with the remaining pecan halves.

Website: [www.noboneslife.com](http://www.noboneslife.com)

Email: [joanie@noboneslife.com](mailto:joanie@noboneslife.com)

A very special "Thank You" to Carol Wells and her Aunt Celia for their family's version of this recipe.

## WOMEN WITH PURPOSE

Women With Purpose Meeting –

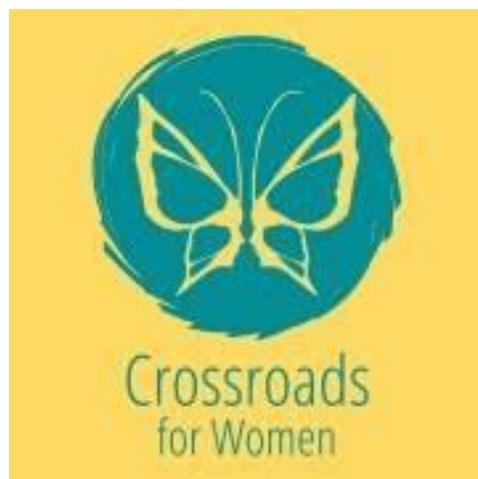
**Thursday, April 1, 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.**

Our focus this month is *Crossroads for Women* with just a bit of a different twist. This 're-entry for women' organization is planning a "self-care" focus for the residents in May. We are responding to that call by filling 15 beautiful purses (all donated but with an interesting story behind 8 of them) with 'girly' things to be handed out. BUT, in addition to the usual handbags, WWP is also filling two laundry baskets with large-sized commodities such as lotion, shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, etc, to fill the communal shelves. Our last outreach to this bunch of ladies was so well received that we are encouraged to repeat our giving spirit for their benefit.

*Enticing tidbit: Were you one of the lucky recipients of \$5 at the last meeting? What did you do with the \$?*

## JUST DOING OUR THING

Dedication of our church members! Sity Roach  
volunteering at Women With Purpose



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 1 Maundy Thursday Service 6 pm

April 2 Good Friday Service 12 noon  
Stations of the Cross

April 4 Easter Sunday  
Sunrise Service 6:30 am  
Worship Services 9 & 11 am

Come join us as we celebrate the Risen Lord!



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

## A NAIL FASTENED IN A SURE PLACE

Bro. Charles Kottenbrook

Isaiah 22:23 "And I will fasten him [as] a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house."

What a strange declaration this is. How wonderful are the ways and the methods used by the Holy Spirit to make Christ real to us! A nail is something made of iron or steel, which can be driven into an object, and used to fasten things together. Nails are used to build houses and many other structures. Nails have been around for centuries.

One of the greatest uses of the nail is seen in Colossians 2:14. What does the Bible say Christ did with our sins? He "blotted out (erased) the handwriting of the ordinances (charges) that was against us and took it out of the way (removed it), by NAILING it to His Cross!" Our sins were fastened "in a sure place," for they were nailed with Him to the Cross, and thus the sin question is settled forever (In Christ).

We were nailed with Him to the Cross of Calvary. We died with Him on the Cross. We have been resurrected with Him from the grave of death, and we are alive with Him at the right hand of the Father in Heaven this very minute. We have all of this because He died in our place. It's time to shout Glory! Glory!!! Glory!!!!!!!!!!!!



### **BIBLE STUDIES ANYONE??**

Sundays, 10 AM, Studying the Gospel of John, Led by Tony Smith

Mondays, 10 AM, "The Parables of Jesus" (DVDs). Led by Francie Larsen

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM, "The Disciple Peter", Led by Judy Ballard

Wednesdays, 5:30 PM, Discussing Galatians, Led by Pastor Reuben

## OUTCOME IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN INCOME

Volunteering is defined as: a voluntary act of an individual or group freely giving time and labor for community service.

When we were young and working hard to better ourselves or our families, volunteering was most likely not at the top of our priority list, but as we got older and hopefully retired, we look for alternative activities to keep us involved and productive members of the community.

Volunteering is just such an activity. The time and effort involved in those activities such as the Food Pantry, Feed New Mexico Kids, Community of Hope, WWP and others, is rewarded not by a paycheck, but by the "smiling eyes" (that is all you can see while wearing a mask), the "thank you's", and the "God bless you's" from the clients we serve each and every month.

We gain a sense of pride and accomplishment when we receive these rewards, knowing that we can make a difference in the life of someone less fortunate than ourselves and it makes us want to do even more.

Our church is very service/mission oriented, so if you have time and a propensity to serve others, check out all that HDUMC has to offer and thank all our volunteers for their service.

### **Michael Fawcett- Co-Director HDUMC Food Pantry**



Left to Right: John Samford, Trixie Maclay, Warren Herrington, Bruce Packard, Jan Herrington



Left to Right: Jan Herrington, Mike Fawcett, Bonnie Korngiebel, Warren Herrington, Lisa Isenberger, Gary Cowles, Steve Lamoreux

### **BIBLE FUN AT HOME:**

Bible stories, crafts, and science experiments are available on our website under Kids Activities ([highdesertumc.org](http://highdesertumc.org)). Please share with your grandchildren and others. Thank you to Judy Thomas, Jody Meyer and Emily Sue Chambers for their hard work.



University Heights  
United Methodist Church

2210 Silver, SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106  
505/266-2525

Rev. Reuben Thomas  
High Desert United Methodist Church  
1201 Golf Course Road  
Rio Ranch, NM 87124

Dear Reuben,

On behalf of University Heights UMC, I wish to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the very generous gift you have presented from High Desert UMC to the Gil Chavez Ministry. We are so thankful that you all decided to partner with us in this endeavor to reach out to those with extremely limited resources during this time. To go 'above and beyond' your normal tithes, gifts and offerings during these difficult times, conducting a "Second Mile Giving" campaign, is simply amazing. Your faithfulness to the call of mission and service is humbling.

From our congregation to yours, "Thank you so very much and God bless you."

Sincerely,  
Jon Kuncel, Pastor

**Do you order from Amazon.com?? Did you know that when you order from Amazon, you can automatically generate donations to HDUMC, (at no additional cost to you) when you have selected "High Desert United Methodist Church, Rio Rancho" to be your charity through Amazon Smile? Or you can use your own unique link for HDUMC.**

For more information, see flyer in Narthex or contact the church. When customers click on your unique link, they skip this charity selection process. Instead, they're taken to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and are automatically asked if they want to support High Desert United Methodist Church.

Your unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-5181819>.

# April 2021



## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Celebrate the  
resurrection of  
our Lord!

*Happy*  
EASTER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <b>WWP 10AM</b> <b>Maundy</b> <b>Thursday</b> <b>Service</b> <b>6 PM</b>	2 Food Pantry 11AM to 2PM <b>Good Friday</b> <b>Service 12 PM</b>	3
4 <b>Easter Worship</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> <b>9 &amp; 11 AM</b> 10 AM SS	5 10 AM Bible Study	6 Ministry Team Meeting 6 PM	7 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	8	9	10
11 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	12 10 AM Bible Study	13	14 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	15 Food Pantry 1 to 4 PM	16	17
18 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	19 10 AM Bible Study	20 Food Pantry 9 to Noon	21 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	22	23	24
25 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	26 10 AM Bible Study	27	28 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	29	30	

## **OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE**



Next month: Who was Simon of Cyrene of the New Testament? *Judy Ballard*

**ANSWER FOR MARCH:** Who was *Cornelius* of the New Testament?

Cornelius was a centurion, a Gentile believer and righteous man. He was instructed in a dream to seek out Peter in Joppa. Peter then was likewise instructed to go to Cornelius in Caesarea where he delivered a noteworthy sermon to the Gentiles. It was illegal at that time for a Jew to associate with a common Gentile, especially to enter a Gentile house. READ Acts chapter 10 for the whole and exciting story!

### **APRIL SECOND MILE GIVING**

### **INTERFAITH BIBLE CENTER**

Our Second Mile Giving for April will be for the Interfaith Bible Center located at 7501 Trumbull Avenue SE in the International Zone of Albuquerque. Rev. Joanne Landry serves a hot meal to the homeless five days a week. You can imagine that this is quite expensive as the demand continues to increase. Over the past year, High Desert UMC has been purchasing approximately \$500 of food each month to support this ministry. Thus, during April you may contribute to this ministry 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.



**Our “Angel Among Us” this month goes out to Lori Kottenbrook!** To you and me, music is such an important part of our worship service each Sunday and we are blessed to have Lori play at our second service. In the past she also was the Editor of our newsletter and helped on many projects. Lori has been in church all her life. She was an awesome pastor's wife in Mississippi, and she played the piano for all the churches they pastored. One thing you might not know about Lori is she can fix most anything, i.e., a car, household appliances to name a few. She works from home for Presbyterian and excels beyond what is expected of her job. It was amazing when I asked other members about Lori and consistently, I heard, “She is a wonderful mother, grandmother and daughter-in-law.” What a blessing she is. **THANK YOU, Lori for all you do!**



**UPDATE FROM THE EDITOR:**

**HAPPY EASTER!!** Hope you like the recipe. It is an Easter favorite dessert.

[generations4counseling@hotmail.com](mailto:generations4counseling@hotmail.com) or phone 505-331-8894.

Francie Larsen



**SEND A CARD IF YOU CAN!**

**Happy 100<sup>th</sup>  
Birthday to  
Christine Swords  
102 Quail Trail  
Edgewood, NM 87015  
April 13th**

## Care Ministry

You are invited to call, write or visit our friends in Christ who are homebound or have health issues, and offer your love, support and encouragement.

<b>Ella Jerome</b>	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	206-4894
<b>Lois Brister</b>	2867 Cripple Creek Drive SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	892-7987
<b>Sheila Arce</b>	4910 Tramway Ridge Dr. NE, #318, Albq. NM 87111	
<b>Phil Pittman</b>	C/O Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NW Room 28, Albuquerque, NM 87120	
<b>Mae Washburn</b>	Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr NW, Albq. 87120	
<b>Lorra Garner</b>	Genesis, 9150 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq. 87114	408-722-6482
<b>Norvin Schuman</b>	382 Nicklaus Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-0526
<b>Grover Donahoe</b>	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	220-3839
<b>Rod &amp; Louise Warpole</b>	10301 Golf Course Rd NW, #1190, Albuquerque, NM 87114	382-9706
<b>Dodie Rossman</b>	The Rio Grande, 2331 Westside Blvd #219, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	300-7499



Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Bill Boss	4/1
Benny Giovengo	4/1
Christine Swords	4/13
Wanda Giovengo	4/16
Lori Kottenbrook	4/22
Trixie Maclay	4/25
Taylor Clouse	4/28
Vi Ortego	4/29

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!



Warren & Jan Herrington	4/11/1986
Barry & Mary Ann Birch	4/15/1967
David & Lorraine Zapf	4/24/1999
Bob Mercaldi & Joy Prentice	4/27/1986
Kevin & Kate Fitzgerald	4/27/2007
Steve & Gloria Lamoreux	4/28/1973

Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

## HOW I GOT TO HDUMC . . .

While on vacation in 1992, we found and bought our dream property near Mountainair, NM. In 1994 Benny retired from Ford Motor Company after 35 years and I no longer had my wallpapering and painting business, we moved from Frankfort, IL in 1995, our new home was being built while we lived in a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel trailer and I learned about New Mexico weather and what the word “Manana” really meant! (Remember I said we had our house built).

Out of the 24 years that we lived near Mountainair, 15 of those years I volunteered for the grade school with 2<sup>nd</sup> graders doing reading one on one and worked in the library. Benny mended fence, mowed grass (5 acres) and breathed the wonderful Mountainair air of his home state.

I became a member of the Mountainair Methodist Church and started my journey learning about how to be a true Christian person. It was when we decided to contact the NOMADS for help in painting and making repairs on our church that an incredibly special couple, Earl and Dottie Hester, came into our lives. What a hard-working group of people were the NOMADS were. We kept in touch with Dottie and Earl through phone and mail. One Thanksgiving, Dottie invited us to come to your Thanksgiving gathering at your church. What a warm and friendly bunch of people.

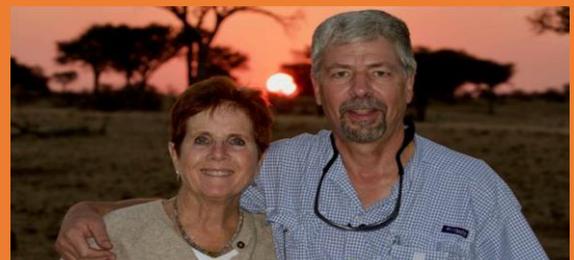
Long story short, we sold our house, bought one here and I have found the most wonderful church family right when I needed it most. God is Good – All the Time

Wanda Giovengo

## GETTING TO KNOW

### YOU (by Dottie Hester)

**Bruce and Lana Packard** both grew up in the Midwest, Bruce in Iowa, and Lana in Michigan. Bruce was one of five children and his father was a Methodist Pastor. He went to Med School in Iowa and after graduation he and Lana moved to Alaska where he had a private practice for 4 years and then worked at an oil company for 10 years. Eventually Bruce took a position at the Conoco/Phillips corporate office in Houston, Texas for the next 17 years until he retired two years ago. Bruce says they decided on New Mexico because it does not get too cold nor too hot. They both love the mountains and Bruce likes hiking in the Sandias. Lana has loved horses since she was three years old and at one point had as many as 10 horses. Now she has just one to spend her time with, but a place where she can ride anytime. Bruce and Lana have two daughters, one in Houston and one in Iowa. Bruce is the new Chairman of the Trustees. We are so blessed to have them at our church.



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# **High Desert United Methodist Church**

1201 Golf Course Road  
Rio Rancho, NM 87174  
Office Hours: Tues-Thu  
9AM-Noon & 1-4PM  
Phone: 505-891-4206;  
Email:  
highdesertumc@outlook.com

We're on the Web!  
[www.highdesertumc.org](http://www.highdesertumc.org)

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## **HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY**

**Distribution dates for April are:**

**Friday, April 2nd 11:00 a.m.**

**Thursday, April 15th at 1:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, April 20th at 9:00 a.m.**

**Featured collection for April is: Canned Meat: Tuna, Chicken,  
Ham, etc.**

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