

*“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”*

# HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS*

April 2022, Issue 4

When we were at First UMC in Grants, we took 10 youths and 10 adults on a mission trip to Seward, Alaska. On our way home, we spent two nights at Saint John UMC in Anchorage. In their sanctuary is a 17-foot tall Easter Totem Pole. For centuries, the Native Americans in Alaska have used totem poles to preserve their stories and events. In the absence of a written language, these carvings on cedar logs were the nearest thing that the people had to books. The characters on the pole provided an outline so that after hearing the story, the people could tell the story for generations.

David Fison and his wife Aleen and children came to Alaska as United Methodist missionaries in 1960. While serving as pastor of the church in Ketchikan, David became intrigued by the great totem poles of the area. After years of research into the local culture and the art of totem poles, he carved the Easter Totem Pole and a 12-foot Christmas Totem Pole.

Using depictions of humans, birds, fish, and mammals, stacked on top of or within one another, the Easter Totem Pole tells the story of Holy Week from the Last Supper to the Resurrection. Starting from bottom to top, the Easter Totem Pole depicts the following:

1. Jesus washing the disciples' feet
2. The Last Supper with smoked salmon and berry juice replacing bread and wine
3. The Cup of Sorrows (Gethsemane) – Jesus' hands reach out to take the cup
4. Judas' betrayal – a necklace of thirty shells replaces the thirty pieces of silver
5. Peter's denial/wolf – the howl of a wolf takes the place of the rooster's crow
6. Pilate washes his hands
7. The Crucifixion – Jesus' crown made of a plant native to Alaska; set of beaver teeth dice
8. The Empty Tomb – a crack across the bottom signifies an earthquake
9. Raven (Angel) announces Christ's resurrection
10. Resurrection and Ascension - trifold hands represent the Trinity

I found the totem pole to be fascinating. I even bought a 27-inch model which I keep in my office. Mr. Fison took the traditions and culture of the Native American people of Alaska and told the gospel story. He did not compromise it, he just told it in a different way.

In a way the Bible is our totem pole. How do we tell the gospel story, the crucifixion and the Resurrection? Do we know the story well enough to retell it to our family, our children, grandchildren and friends? During Holy Week, please take advantage of the different worship services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter morning. Join us for our Sunrise Service at 6:30 am and watch the sun rise over the Sandia Mountains. Also stay for some refreshments and our traditional services at 9 and 11 am as we retell the story of God's love and redemption through the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He Is Risen!

*Reuben*

## WOMEN WITH PURPOSE

Thursday, April 7, 2022, 10:00 a.m. HDUMC sanctuary

Haven House: What do those words conjure up for you? To Women With Purpose, (WWP) that name means a lot. First, for what it represents: A safe place for women (and children, and occasionally even a man) in physical/mental danger due to abusive situations in their home. Second, Haven House was WWP's first outreach to connect with and help women in our community who need our brand of caring. Our task this month is very similar to the first time we responded to this challenge: We will be filling 16 purses (all new or nearly new) with toiletries and essentials like deodorant, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush/toothpaste, sanitary supplies, etc. We may also include an item strictly feminine or frivolous. Won't you join us and add to our camaraderie? (Psst! We may even enjoy treats afterward!)

## INTERFAITH BIBLE CENTER

We thank God for the ministry of Rev. Joanne Landry and Interfaith Bible Center located in the International Zone of Albuquerque. The city council of Albuquerque just approved the purchase of a tent to provide overnight shelter on the property. It should be up in a few days. Joanne continues to reach out to those in need in her neighborhood with food, shelter and grace. Our church provided \$400 worth of food to her this month- as we do every month. We also were able to give her blankets, socks, and hats which were donated by our congregation. Joanne is doing God's work and we are blessed to be a small part of it.





## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



A group of 33 High Desert UMC folks enjoyed brunch together at Milly's Restaurant on March 15<sup>th</sup>. A big "Atta Boy!" to Skip Chambers for his idea of brunch at Milly's. A great time was had by all. The servers were polite, efficient and friendly. They really liked us and asked that we return. The kitchen got our orders out in record time. Quite a feat for the number of people to serve. Thanks to Linnette for driving the bus. The "Bus Bunch" really enjoyed the ride to and from the restaurant. Everyone is looking forward to the next activity.

The fellowship Committee has several outings in the works for our congregation. As of now, plans for the following activities are being finalized.

**April 11<sup>th</sup>:** Visit *Stations of the Cross* at St. Francis Cathedral & lunch at Tomasita's in Santa Fe.

**April 29<sup>th</sup>:** Cook-out in church parking lot, 5:00 -7:00 PM

**May 15<sup>th</sup>:** Isotopes baseball game, 1:30 PM. 45 tickets have been reserved.

The Fellowship Committee meets, at the Church, the first Thursday of each month at 11:00 AM immediately following the Women with Purpose meeting. It is our goal to have a Fellowship activity every month. Several opportunities for future activities are currently being developed so **PLEASE STAY TUNED!**

God Bless, Ken Dewbre

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**Recommended Movies:** **April 4,5,& 6:** "The Case for Heaven" at Regal Cinema in Cottonwood Mall at 7:00 PM. And "Father Stu", playing on **April 12** at 4:00 & 7:00 PM, and on **April 13** at 1:00, 4:00 & 7:00 PM at Premier Cinema in Rio Rancho.



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## *Getting to Know Each Other*

By Dottie Hester

Welcome to Glynda Lester, who is new to HDUMC and lives at Palmilla Retirement Village. She moved from Canyon City, Colorado to Rio Rancho in 2020 just about the time Covid kept her shut down at Palmilla. Glynda was born in Stroud, Oklahoma, where her father taught in the school system. Her mother passed away when Glynda was young and she and her father moved to Canyon City where family members lived. Glynda's husband was in the military so they did a lot of moving all around the US as well as Scotland and Spain. Glynda worked as a paralegal. Her husband had a stroke several years ago and when she was no longer able to take care of him they moved to Rio Rancho to be close to their son and family. Glynda attended Walk to Emmaus in 2000 which made a big impression in her life. We are happy to have Glynda in our church and the Monday morning Bible study.

## Holy Week Schedule

April 14     Maundy Thursday Service 6 pm  
*Seder Meal, followed by Holy Communion*

April 15     Good Friday Service 12 noon  
*Service of Nails*

April 17             Easter Sunday  
Sunrise Service 6:30 am  
Worship Services 9 & 11 am

Come join us as we celebrate the Risen Lord!



### **BIBLE STUDIES ANYONE?**

Sunday – 10:00 AM – Studying Isaiah – Led by Tony Smith

Monday – 11:00 AM – “Believing God” by Beth Moore – Led by Francie Larsen

Wednesday – 10:30 AM – Studying Jeremiah – Led by Judy Ballard

Wednesday – 5:30 PM – Studying an overview of the Book of Revelations – Led by Pastor Reuben

Online Studies – Daniel and John – contact Tony Smith at [coraleno@aol.com](mailto:coraleno@aol.com)

# APRIL 2022

## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SS = Sunday School MS = MorningStar						
3 <b>9 AM Worship</b> <b>10 AM Sunday School (SS)</b> <b>10:30 Morning Star (MS)</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	4 11 AM Bible Study	5	6 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir Practice	7 10 AM Women with Purpose	8 11 AM Food Pantry	9 2
10 <b><u>Palm Sunday</u></b> <b>9 AM Worship</b> <b>10 AM SS</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	11 11 AM Bible Study Trip to Santa Fe – Stations of the Cross	12 6 PM Ministry Team Meeting	13 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir Practice (No evening Bible Study tonight)	14 Maundy Thursday Service at 6 PM	15 Good Friday Service at Noon	16
17 <b><u>EASTER</u></b> <b>6:30 AM Sunrise Service</b> <b>9 AM Worship</b> <b>10 AM SS</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	18 11 AM Bible Study	19 9 AM Food Pantry 10 AM Memorial Service for Hugh Seifert	20 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir Practice	21 1 PM Food Pantry	22	23
24 <b>9 AM Worship</b> <b>10 AM SS</b> <b>10:30 AM MS</b> <b>11 AM Worship</b>	25 11 AM Bible Study	26	27 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir Practice	28	29 5 – 7 PM Cook-out in church parking lot	30

## OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



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

### **ANSWER FOR MARCH:** *Cornelius*

Cornelius was a religious Gentile. He was a Centurion in the Italian Regiment who had an authentic vision of an angel from God calling him to service. Per these instructions, Cornelius sent for Peter who was preaching nearby. This is the beginning of Jesus' followers embracing those believers who were non-Jews (foreigners) and accepting them as equals in their faith.

## **APRIL SECOND MILE GIVING**

### ***Feed New Mexico Kids***

Unfortunately, New Mexico is not a good place to be a kid! According to Map the Meal Gap 2019 report from Feeding America, 24.1% of kids age 18 and younger in New Mexico – that's one in every four – are at risk of hunger and food insecurity. This report by Rick Nathanson in the *Albuquerque Journal* dated May 2, 2019 summarizes the dire need facing students in our community. We are told by school counselors, nurses, and principals that many students face each weekend not knowing how or when they will eat.

To address this need, High Desert UMC through Women with Purpose (WWP) has been participating in and supporting Feed New Mexico Kids, a local nonprofit organization, by providing weekend food packs to children in our local community. Currently, and throughout the pandemic, WWP and other volunteers assemble over 265 food packs per month which are given to 60 students in five local schools. Each package costs approximately \$7.



During 2021, 2,305 bags of snacks were assembled and distributed. Each bag weighs approximately 2.8 pound; thus, a total of well over 3 tons of food was distributed to local students last year. And the demand continues to increase.

Our Second Mile Giving during April will go to the purchase of the food for these packs. You can support this worthwhile ministry by writing "Feed NM Kids" on the memo line of your check to the church. Thanks for making a difference in the lives of these children.

# 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>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 Albuquerque, NM 87120	
<b>Lorra Garner</b>	Genesis, 9150 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq 87114	408-722-6482
<b>Grover Donahoe</b>	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	220-3839
<b>Rod &amp; Louise Warpole</b>	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	332-9706
<b>Mary Lou Schimke</b>	7927 Jamestown Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114-4498	898-5911
<b>Mac Esquibel</b>	4544 Aguila Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-1469
<b>Sister Barbara Kopecki</b>	3800 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659	
<b>Wilmoth Chambliss</b>	10700 Fineland Dr. NW #334, Albuquerque, NM	681-0825
<b>Carol Smith</b>	920 Riverview Dr. SE, Apt. 214, Rio Rancho, NM	221-4515
<b>Ella Jerome</b>	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	206-4894



Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Bill Boss,	April 1
Benny Giovengo	April 1
April Salisbury	April 3
Dirk Sanderson	April 10
Ruth Riggin	April 15
Mike Schramko	April 15
Wanda Giovengo	April 16
Lori Kottenbrook	April 22
Trixie Maclay	April 25
Eleanor Thomas	April 27
Earl Van Doren	April 28
Bessie Lovorn	April 28
Taylor Clouse	April 28
Vi Ortega	April 29

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!



Vic & Natalie Holtgrewe	April 9
Warren and Jan Herrington	April 11
Barry and Mary Ann Birch	April 15
Dave and Lorraine Zapf	April 24
Kevin and Katie Fitzgerald	April 27
Steve and Gloria Lamoreux	April 28

*Happy Anniversary!*

Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

## A Litany

**They tortured Him.  
They taunted Him.  
They left Him alone in a cell.  
They punished Him.  
They stole His clothes.  
They took His strength as well.  
Thus they stripped away His  
human-ness.  
And all that was left was God.**

*Shared by Arlene Westgaard,  
Composed by her late husband, Odin*

## ANGELS AMONG US

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR SITY ROACH,  
WHO REGULARLY CARES FOR OUR  
CHURCH FAMILY BY VISITING PEOPLE  
IN CARE FACILITIES, CALLING AND  
CHECKING ON OTHERS, AND  
SOMETIMES JUST SITTING WITH  
SOMEONE WHO NEEDS COMFORT.  
THANK YOU, SITY, FOR SHARING THE  
LOVE OF CHRIST.

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## *Partners in Mission*

Thanks to the Corrales Fire Department, Sue Hinchcliffe, Lynn Siverts, Mike Fawcett, and John Samford. The Corrales FD donated their holiday collection of food goods to the HDUMC Food Pantry!



Thanks, the  
several  
hundred  
pounds will  
benefit the  
needs of our  
community.



Thanks also to Mesa View United Methodist Church, now collecting a specific food item every month and donating to our food pantry. Last month ketchup, mustard & mayo. This month cereal will be collected and donated. On March 16, four carts full of food items were delivered. Through the efforts of our Food Pantry, High Desert UMC is becoming well known as the church that feeds the community.

**Working together, much is done!**



## Community of Hope

David and I (Sue) want to say thank you very much for all the support that we receive in serving the meals for Community of Hope. A ministry such as this would not be possible without the love and generosity that you provide.

The meal that was provided on February 27, 2022, was Catalina Chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread and butter, pudding and a banana. I was told that the meal was delicious!

Thank you again to all who purchased the necessary items to make this meal possible, or made a cash donation for necessities that do not get listed on the donation sheet. Also thanks to Gloria and Steve Lamoreux for going to the church to assist in preparing and serving the meal.

THANK YOU.

God Bless,

Dave and Sue Duranty

## MorningStar Worship Ministry

Did you know that members of High Desert UMC are leading worship services each Sunday morning at MorningStar Assisted Living Center? Arlene Westgaard and Frank Rotolo go to MorningStar every Sunday morning at 10:30 to lead music for the residents. A rotating team of *ministers* (yes, every Christian is, in a sense, a minister,) provides the morning message. The ministerial team consists of: Emily Sue Chambers, Dave and Sue Duranty, Jan Herrington, Lisa Isenberger, Bruce Packard, Randy Sever, and Tony and Sheila Smith. Pictured are Bruce and Frank on March 13<sup>th</sup>, following the worship service.



***Don't be afraid to try something new.  
The ark was built by one amateur.  
The Titanic was built by a team of professionals.***

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# High Desert United Methodist Church

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P.O. Box 45378

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Office Hours: Wednesday

9AM-Noon

Phone: 505-891-4206;

Email: [highdesertumc@outlook.com](mailto:highdesertumc@outlook.com)

*April Newsletter*

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 1 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Tuesday, April 19th at 9:00 a.m.**

**Thursday, April 21st at 1:00 p.m.**

**April Collection: Canned meats**  
**Contact Mike Fawcett at (715)456-3044**  
**for more information.**

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