

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

April, 2023, Issue 4

By the time you read this, we will be almost through Lent and ready to celebrate Palm Sunday and Easter. Lent is a period of forty days beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter, excluding Sundays. It was originally a time to prepare candidates for baptism and became a period of penitence for those who had been baptized. Now it is a time of self-reflection and spiritual growth. I don't remember much about the observance of Lent when I was growing up in the rural South. But as I have grown older and become more active in the church, I have recognized it as a special season in the life of the Church. I hope that Lent this year has been a special time for you and that you have grown closer to the Lord in your personal relationship.

Now while some people give up something for Lent, others use the time to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others, inviting their family and friends to church. What greater gift can you give someone than the love, mercy, grace, and salvation that Jesus Christ offers to all.

The Great Commission calls us to share our faith and to help others know and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. However, we as a church sometimes pursue Christ's command with some misconceptions. For example, many churches believe that faith sharing is a program of the local church and assign it to a committee; when in fact faith sharing is the responsibility of all of us.

Another misconception is that there is only one way or approach for sharing our faith. As each one of us is unique in the eyes of the Lord, so each one of us shares our faith in different ways as led by the Holy Spirit. We can share our faith through personal relationships that we have built with others based on mutual trust. More than seventy-five percent of people who become Christians do so because of the testimony, lifestyle and encouragement of someone they know and trust.

Also, no special training or theology degree is needed. It's your story, your relationship with the Lord, so share it from your heart. Finally, many believe that faith sharing, bringing others to Christ, is the sole responsibility of the clergy. Nothing could be further from the truth.

We are all called to tell our story, what Jesus Christ means to us.

As we prepare for Holy Week and the celebration of Easter on April 9, invite a family member, friend or neighbor to join us in worship at one of our three services: sunrise at 6:30 am in the parking lot and the 9 and 11 am services. Also invite them to our Maundy Thursday Service on April 6 at 6 pm and the Good Friday Service on April 7 at 12 noon.

Here's a serious thought: someone's place in eternity may depend on whether you will take the opportunity to share your faith and invite them to church. So, use this opportunity to share Jesus with someone. You will never know the difference you may make in their life. There are people in our community who are wanting to hear the Good News and looking for a church home. May we as a church help them find Christ and a welcoming home. Help someone experience the joy and the power of the Risen Lord this Easter. He Is Risen!
Reuben



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Our next fellowship outing will be a lovely Holy Week activity on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. The church bus will leave the church at 10:00 AM. We will meet at Tomasita's in Santa Fe for lunch at 11:00. After lunch, we'll gather at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis to walk through the Stations of the Cross at our leisure before returning home. If interested, please sign up in the Narthex. If you need a ride on the church bus, please reserve a seat by checking the right column on the sign-up sheet. Carpooling is also encouraged.

There's a 2nd outing planned for April: Pssst! The word is out! Everyone is invited to the High Desert Fellowship Event on Wednesday, April 19 to enjoy a tour of the traveling exhibit, "So Ready for Laughter, The Legacy of Bob Hope," at the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History at 601 Eubank SE in Albuquerque. Tickets are \$9 for seniors. There are certainly many among us with distinct memories of Hope's brand of patriotic outreach. We will meet at church. Bus leaves at 9:15 a.m.; tour begins at 10 a.m. After the tour we will meet at the Owl Café, 800 Eubank Ave. NE in Albuquerque for lunch, Dutch Treat style. There are also many of us with fond memories of that Route 66 landmark! Everybody come! We have a reputation to uphold! Until next time, Ken Dewbre, Fellowship Committee Chairperson

Angels Dressed in Blue Jeans

By: Michael Pitts, March 17, 2006

(Special thanks to Dr. Pitts for sharing this song at the Women with Purpose meeting on March 2, 2023)

They gathered in the morning – they were dressed up for the day.
Wearing clothes for worship – they had come to work and play.
They're headed to the city and they're going to the street.
They'll see Jesus in the people that they meet.

CHORUS: They are angels – dressed in blue jeans

At the crossroads of somebody else's dreams.

They roll their holy sleeves up and they spread their mighty wings.

They are reaching out as angels in blue jeans.

There were children and their parents – there were homeless, young and old.
Some were needy, some were helpless – some were hungry, some were cold.
These angels were the answer to what others dared to pray.
In the background they could hear the Father say:

CHORUS

In the Heavens they were singing all around the holy throne.
The Father, He was grinning, for these angels were His own.
He wrapped His arms around them and He said, "I hope you see.
When you do this you have done it unto me."

Discipleship Corner

A new monthly feature by Lisa Isenberger

Forgiving as Disciples

2 Corinthians 5:17-20a (NIV) “17. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:[a] The old has gone, the new is here! 18. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19. that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.”

Spiritual Discipleship involves being transformed into a new creation. We are put into a right relationship with God through Jesus, without having our past count against us.

When we live like disciples, we become ambassadors of Christ and are given the ministry of reconciliation. This means that we are called to minister to others by forgiving them and not counting their past sins against them. As Paul explained to the Ephesians 4:32 (NIV): Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

How well are you putting this into practice? I will be honest, this is a tough one. I challenge you to work on forgiveness with just one person this month. I’ll do the same. Forgiving others requires seeing them as children of God who may be flawed, but are still deeply loved. I find that it helps to take a step back and remember that we, too, are flawed, yet deeply loved by God. We have been transformed into a new creation by the power of His mercy and grace through the forgiveness offered through Christ.

Prayer - Gracious God, thank you for giving me a fresh start through Jesus. Guide me to minister to others in the same way that Jesus did - by offering them a fresh start. Give me patience and strength as I strive to be an ambassador of Christ and forgive others as He has forgiven me. In His name I pray, Amen.



BASEBALL OUTING

Mark your calendars, we have scheduled our annual spring baseball outing to see the Isotopes play on Sunday May 7 at 1:35 pm. We have reserved 44 box seats in top rows of Section 109 between home plate and third base. Cost will be \$15.50 per seat. The Isotopes will be playing the Tacoma Rainiers. We will have a sign-up sheet starting in April. The Church Bus will be available for those who need a ride.

APRIL SECOND MILE GIVING

NAVAJO RESERVATION RELIEF MISSION

Our Second Mile Giving for April will go to support the Navajo Reservation Relief Mission. Over the last year, High Desert UMC through Women with Purpose has been supporting the wonderful ministry of Rev. Chris Davis in Gallup, New Mexico. For thirteen years, Rev. Davis has been committed to meeting the needs, both practical and spiritual, of those in her community. Many of the folks in her “parish” are Native Americans on the Navajo Reservation and also many who are trying to survive on the streets of Gallup. Chris reaches out to these, God’s children, many of whom are on the margins of society, and shows grace and acceptance on a daily basis. The church where Chris has spent thirteen years is being turned into a neighborhood gathering spot where young people can enjoy a safe place to play games, take art and music lessons, and learn to sew. If you would like to support this ministry, please mark “Navajo Mission” on the memo line of your check.

Women with Purpose

Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

We have an inside joke among the WWP; instead of calling us Women With Purpose, we are known as “Women with Purses.” Why is that? Because we support more than one local social need by filling new or ‘gently used’ ladies’ purses with goodies. True, mostly needed items, but some strictly feminine too, just for the heck of it. This month we are responding to “Crossroads for Women” an organization that serves women emerging from incarceration with handbags filled with deodorant, dry shampoo, brushes, socks, warm hats, and other things. If you haven’t experienced our particular brand of ‘frenzy for friends,’ Come join us, and bring a friend.



<https://www.crossroadsforwomen.org/>

CHURCH MISSION TRIP

During Lent, many people give up something in order to spend more time with God. This year from March 13-15, nine members of High Desert UMC spent their time participating in a mission trip to St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel, New Mexico. Special thanks to Lynn Hood, Kent Hays, Dann Meyer, Bruce Packard, John Samford, Shelia Smith, Tony Smith and Judy Thomas. Special thanks to Val Forbes who provided sack lunches and Emily Sue Chambers who provided cookies. We constructed 180 feet of sidewalk to three portable classrooms that will be used this fall for early childhood, placed crusher fines for a new playground, painted benches, and taught music classes for the students. We had the privilege to work alongside ten students and two sponsors from Elon University from North Carolina.

On the first day, Monday March 13, most of us constructed the forms which required a lot of digging in some really tough soil. Judy and Shelia painted benches, and Tony, Shelia and Judy taught music to the students. The latter has led to discussions concerning High Desert providing a more music classes at St. Joseph's. On day two, Tuesday March 14, we placed 10 cubic yards of concrete in 125 feet of five-foot-wide sidewalk, and completed constructing the forms. Most of the concrete had to be moved by wheelbarrows, which if you have ever pushed a wheelbarrow with concrete moving around in it is extremely hard. Some of the college students learned this the hard way. The painting around the campus continued along with the music class. On the final day, Wednesday March 15, we placed 4.5 cubic yards of concrete in 55 feet of sidewalk, finished painting, cleaned up, and headed home.



Children of St. Joseph's playing instruments in music class

I am extremely thankful to the hard work and dedication of our team who worked from sunrise to almost sunset on Monday and Tuesday. It was a great time of fellowship, getting to know each other better. We enjoyed working with the college students; by the way, the average age difference between the two work teams was over 50 years! I was really impressed with how our team patiently taught the students about concrete, construction, and work ethics. We also enjoyed getting to know Father Antonio Trujillo and his staff better.

As you know, I truly believe in missions which fulfill Jesus' command to love God and love our neighbors. I look forward to future projects to St. Joseph Mission School and other projects.

God Bless. Reuben

Words that should end with "Amen":

"Preach the Gospel always; use words when necessary."

Church Mission Trip



Bruce, Dann and Lynn

Our Crew and
Elon Students



Reuben and students during the
concrete pour



Sheila, expertly painting



Tony and a student jammin'



John working that wheelbarrow



Kent and a student breaking up the soil

APRIL 2023

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HAPPY EASTER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Palm Sunday 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	3 10 AM Bible Study	4 10:00 AM Outing to Santa Fe for Stations of the Cross (& Lunch)	5 9:00 AM Missions Comm Mtg Office Hours 9 AM-12 Noon 10:00 Mike Fawcett Service 5:30 PM Choir	6 10 AM Women with Purpose 11 AM Fellowship Comm. 6 PM Maundy Thursday	7 11 AM - 2:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 noon Good Friday Service	1 8
9 Easter 6:30 AM Sunrise Service 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	10 10 AM Bible Study FNMK Bagging	11 6:00 PM Ministry Team Mtg	12 10:30 Bible Study Office Hours 10:30 AM Bible Study 9 AM-12 Noon 5:30 PM Bible St. & Choir	13	14 10:00 Emmaus Agape/Reunion Group	15
16 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	17 10 AM Bible Study	18 9 AM Food Pantry	19 Office Hrs 9-12 9:15 AM Outing: "Legacy of Bob Hope" 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir & Bible Study	20 1 PM Food Pantry	21	22
23 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	24 10 AM Bible Study	25	26 10:30 Bible Study Office Hours: 9 AM - 12 Noon 5:30 PM Bible	27	28	29
30 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship						

SS = Sunday School;

MS = MorningStar Worship;

FNMK = Feed New Mexico Kids

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: Who was Cleopas?

ANSWER FOR LAST MONTH: Who were Hananiah, Mishael, and Azeriah? Perhaps you know them better as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. . . When King Nebuchadnezzar overcame Judah in battle, he had a plan to groom certain fit, young men to be special servants. Daniel and three of his counterparts were chosen, but they refused to eat the king's food or drink his wine. Long story short, they were commanded to worship the Babylonian king which they refused to do. So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown into a raging fire. Miraculously they were not consumed and the king praised their God. Read the book of Daniel to get all the juicy details!

Bible Studies Available

SUNDAY 10 AM: Studying a LifeGuide Topical Bible Studies, entitled "Meeting God." Led by Tony Smith.

MONDAY 10 AM: Francie Larsen leads a study entitled "Why Easter Matters" by Andy Stanley.

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: Our Wednesday morning class, led by Judy Ballard, is studying the Book of Hebrews.

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: A study entitled *Believe, Living the Story of the Bible to Become Like Jesus*. We focus on 30 of the Bible's greatest lessons on living the Christian life.

AT FAIRWINDS: Tony Smith leads a Bible Study at Fairwinds each week.

ONLINE STUDIES: We are currently sending out each week an email from Tony Smith discussing 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.

PODCASTS: "Footsteps" Available on the church website.

GRADUATES

High Desert UMC would like to present a Bible to each High School and College graduate as they begin a new journey in their life. If you have a child or grandchild graduating this spring, please provide the following information to the Church Office: student name. where they are graduating from, parent/grandparent.



Care Ministry

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

Sheila Arce	4910 Tramway Ridge Dr. NE, #318, Albq. NM 87111	
Phil Pittman	C/O Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NW Albuquerque, NM 87120	
Lorra Garner	Genesis, 9150 McMahan 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
Mary Lou Schimke	7927 Jamestown Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114-4498	898-5911
Mac Esquibel	4544 Aguila Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-1469
Sister Barbara Kopecki	3800 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659	
Ella Jerome	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	312-2992
Wanda Schierling	921 Purple Aster, Bernalillo, NM 87004	970-398-0501
Arlene Westgaard	339 Nicklaus Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	803-6885



Warren & Jan Herrington	April 11
Barry & May Ann Birch	April 15
David & Lorraine Zapf	April 24
Steve & Gloria Lamoreux	April 28

Bill Boss	April 1
Benny Giovengo	April 1
April Salisbury	April 3
Dirk Sanderson	April 10
Wanda Giovengo	April 16
Pauline Walker	April 20
Lori Kottenbrook	April 22
Trixie Maclay	April 25
Earl Van Doren	April 28
Taylor Clouse-DeBlanc	April 28
Vi Ortega	April 29

High Desert Methodist Food Pantry

Have you heard about our Food Pantry operated by skilled, trained volunteers? Are you interested in being part of this mission that feeds children, adults and seniors in our community? The Pantry has several different jobs, each with varying skills, physical requirements, and different times during each month – there is probably one that fits you! These include: welcome/intake of clients, preparation of food boxes, stocking of food, transport of food, and warehousing. There are several current volunteers, but to continue serving over 150 clients (equaling over 400 individuals) during our three distribution dates each month, it is important to have depth in our trained and capable staff. If you are interested in knowing more about this vital part of High Desert, contact John Samford (505)870-0667 or jsamford@mac.com

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

APRIL, 2023 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for APRIL, 2023 are:

Friday, April 7 at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 18 at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 20 at 1:00 p.m.

**April Collection: Canned Meat
(tuna, ham, chicken)**

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