

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

Well, Easter has come and gone for another year. I don't know if you realize it or not, but Lent and Easter, not Advent and Christmas, are the busiest time for the church, especially Holy Week. And this year was no exception. Thanks to Lorraine Zapf and Drew Ammons for directing *The Living Last Supper* drama on Maundy Thursday. Special thanks to those who played Jesus and the disciples: Drew Ammons, Damon Bruce, Gordon Golsan, Kent Hays, Bryce Hendricks, Glenn Hinchcliffe, Bill Mason, Bruce Packard, John Samford, Bill Schramko, Chuck Schimke, Del Smart, and Dave Zapf. Thanks to those who attended the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services. Thanks to the readers at *The Nails of the Cross* service: Jane Butel, Emily Sue Chambers, Bonne Korngiebel, Robert Pacheco, Glynda Samford, and Gay Smart. We had 48 brave souls at the Easter Sunrise Service. Weren't the Easter Services inspiring? While, each day should be celebrated as Easter, it is special when we gather to sing the old hymns and worship the Risen Lord. Special thanks to Lori Kottenbrook, the choir, Frank Rotolo, Helen Korschgen, Drew Ammons, Lisa Isenberger, Jenny

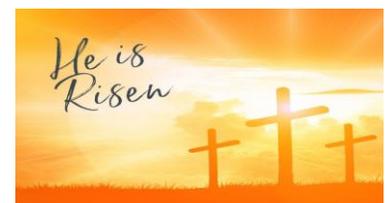
Kottenbrook and John Kottenbrook for the music at all these services. Of course, where would we be without the faithful workers in the sound/video booth: Melissa Bruce, Warren Herrington, Lynn Hood, and Bruce Packard. And then there's the faithful office workers: Linn Carlson, Emily Sue Chambers, Joanne Claybrook, Barbara Morgan, and Carol Lamkin; and our dedicated bus drivers: Damon Bruce and Jeff Pratt. Thanks to Pauline Walker who made 50 chocolate/peanut butter Easter Eggs for the students of St. Joseph Mission School. Last, but not least, I want to thank each of you for your continued support. We are so blessed at High Desert to have so many wonderful people who want to serve the Lord.

For the last couple of weeks, I have been thinking that if I could get through Holy Week and Easter, then everything would go back to normal; I could relax. And then it hit me; God finally got through to me – what are you saying? Easter should change everything, especially you. Things should not go back to normal and you definitely can't take a break and relax; there's a lot of work to be done. But it is a human tendency to take a breather and relax after major events.

April, 2024, Issue 4

In a way, the time after Easter can be anticlimactic. We have gone to the Sunrise Service, sang those great old hymns, put on our best Sunday clothes, hidden the Easter eggs, and had dinner with family and friends. It's spring time and we have a lot of things to do around the house, and then we need to start planning our summer vacations. Our health is good and everything is going okay with the family, so we think we really don't need God right now; that we can just take a break from Him until something comes up when we need His help again.

Easter may be over, but God still has a lot of work for us to do here in Rio Rancho. Let's not drift back into our comfort zones and daily routines, and take a break from serving the Lord. God is giving us many opportunities to reach out and serve this community through our mission projects. Let's make Easter a daily event in our lives and the Church. God Bless, Reuben



OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Who was Cornelius in the New Testament? Find the answer elsewhere in this issue.

Bible Studies Available

To help us grow spiritually in our personal relationship with Christ, High Desert UMC is offering the following Bible studies this spring. Please join one of the following studies in the classroom.

SUNDAY 10 AM: Studying Revelation, Topical Bible Studies, Led by Tony Smith.

MONDAY 10 AM: Studying *The Heaven Academy* by Dr. David Jeremiah, led by Francie Larsen.

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: The Book of Psalms, led by John Kottenbrook.

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: The Bible using "*The Story*" led by Reuben Thomas, in the sanctuary

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

ONLINE STUDIES: We send out a weekly email from Tony Smith discussing Isaiah. You can also participate in Tony's online studies on Daniel, John & Revelation at coraleno@aol.com.

PODCASTS: "Footsteps" Available on the church website.

Women's Walk to Emmaus

"The 56th Walk to Emmaus was held from March 21-24 at the Manzano Mountain Retreat. I was privileged to go on the Walk and what a wonderful experience!! It was the most spiritual journey of my life and I experienced so much love, healing, fellowship, blessings, and surprises. It's hard to describe the Walk but I would encourage anyone interested in getting closer to God to attend this Walk. You won't be disappointed and you will be filled with the Holy Spirit when you get down off the mountain." Cheryl Mason

"I want to express my sincerest thank you to all of those at church who made the recent Walk to Emmaus such a wonderful experience for me! The retreat was so much more than I envisioned and such an amazing and inspirational weekend, one that I will never forget. I am truly blessed to be a part of such a caring and giving church family." Lou Williams

"I would like to personally thank each and every person in our congregation that encouraged, supported, contributed and, in any way made this Women's Emmaus a tremendous success, as well as a deeply spiritual experience for Cheryl, Lou and the entire weekend team." Linn Carlson

APRIL SECOND MILE GIVING:

KEEP THE BELL RINGING



Our Second Mile Giving for April will go to providing assistance to St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel, New Mexico. Over the past three years, we have developed a great working relationship with St. Joseph. St. Joseph Mission School is a Pre-K through 8th grade Catholic School that shares the gospel of hope through faith, academics, culture, environment and service. Since 1923 the bell at St. Joseph Mission School has rung to begin and end the day, educating and spreading the gospel of hope to local children; currently there are 41 students from the Pueblos of Laguna and Acoma and from the local villages of Seboyeta, Cubero and San Fidel. Tuition is low and does not cover the cost of educating a child. Even at their low tuition rate many families have to rely on tuition assistance from various organizations. The difference is made up through grants and donations. Several times in the 100 years of their existence, St. Joseph has come close to closing its doors, but a higher power has kept it open even when it seemed impossible. If you would like to help “keep the bell ringing,” please mark “St. Joseph Mission School” on the memo line of your check.

Antonio Trujillo, the principal of St. Joseph Mission School, will be delivering our message on Sunday April 14. Please join us as Antonio proclaims God’s Word. This is a great opportunity to meet him and learn more about St. Joseph.

Women With Purpose Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 10 AM

Hello ladies! That time again--first Thursday of the month and our focus is on WWP! One might think that there are no more places our group of women can reach out into our community with our special brand of caring and giving, but NOT SO!

We have discovered and made an alliance with one more agency to focus our talents and giving on: Locker 505. This organization is aimed at school students who are in NEED, not just for food like Feed New Mexico Kids (one of our favorites!). These students are identified by counselors, teachers and other professionals and they need everything including clothes and school supplies. Our thrust this month is a bag of small toiletries for 50 kids. We will be assembling toothbrush and toothpaste, floss, lip balm, soap, etc. But we’re not done. . . we will also be stuffing 6 large totes for families in need. They will also include toiletries. Won’t you please come join us!



Fellowship Events

On March 19, a congenial group enjoyed a trip to the Telephone Museum.

Our next outing is to the **Isotopes baseball game** Sunday April 28 at 1:35 pm. We have reserved 45 box seats in Section 109; cost is \$16.50 per seat. The Isotopes will be playing the Oklahoma City Dodgers. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are interested in attending. The Church Bus will be available for those who need a ride, who indicate so on the sign-up sheet. Please make your payment to the Church and mark "Baseball Outing" on the memo line of your check.

Santa Fe Opera: Based on the responses to the recent bulletin insert, we have reserved 15 seats for a performance of *Don Giovanni* on Friday, August 23, 2024. This performance, on this date, is available for group pricing at \$77 each. This number will fill up the bus, but more are welcome if you can drive your own car. A box supper will be provided for \$8 each. Total cost will be \$85 for the trip. Please see Judy to reserve your ticket.

Our Food Pantry Continues to Serve our Neighbors

During the month of March, High Desert 's Food Pantry served 189 total households, or 504 individuals with fresh and non-perishable foods. This number includes 120 children, 253 seniors, and 131 other adults. And we distributed 362 lbs. of pet food, allowing 30 families to care for their companion animals. We appreciate your support of these amazing missions to our local community. *(Information supplied by John Samford and Lisa Isenberger.)*

Who we listen to...

determines what we hear, and what we hear determines our Christian action.

Where we stand determines what we see, and what we see determines our response.

Stand with those with whom Jesus stood. Do you always stand in safe places, insulated with comfortable surroundings, with the spectators and the powers that be? Or do you step out and risk standing with those who need a friend or a cheerleader?

Remember Christian Action is a grateful response to God's Grace, empowered by the Holy Spirit, by which we grow in the likeness of Christ.

When you are involved in Christian Action, you are authentically living up to the image of God in which you were created – your potential for loving God and your neighbor with your whole life.

Your mission is to pass on the gift of grace you have been given. Linn Carlson

Scenes from Holy Week



Mauddy Thursday, Living Last Supper



Good Friday, Nails of the Cross



Sunrise Service



Sunrise Service Congregation



Easter Morning



A Crowd for Easter Worship

Thank You Notes received

"Dear Rev. Thomas and High Desert UMC. What a blessing to receive your check that will help Walk to Emmaus #56! We have been in prayer for the pilgrims, team, and Manzano Mountain Retreat. You, our friends, are an answer to prayer. How we thank God for you! The NWNM Emmaus Board"
Thank you to Linn Carlson for coordinating this donation.

"Dear Pastor Thomas (and High Desert UMC), thank you for your support for Operation Christmas Child. In 2023 10+million and 11.3 million Global shoeboxes were collected. Central NM teams collected 16,225 shoe boxes that were sent to Mexico... We are grateful for your partnership with Samaritan's Purse OCC Gospel Mission...."
Thank you to Patty Latter for coordinating this project.

Church Library – Check it Out

Bibles, Bibles, Bibles

When Reuben noted there were a few different versions of the Bible, he knew Bibles could easily fill two shelves of the church library. Thanks to the many donations from our membership, you can now check out Bible version differences.

Read and compare Bibles like: The Book, New Living Bible Translation, New Revised Standard, New International Bible, Hadley's Bible Handbook, Rose Bible Overview, The Jerusalem Bible, New Oxford Annotated Bible, King James Version, New King James Version, The Amplified Bible, Narrated Bible, Believe: Living the story of the Bible to become like Jesus, and The Reader's Digest Bible (Illustrated Edition).



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, Romania

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

CPL Blake Stuart, USMC, Camp Lejeune,
North Carolina

APRIL 2024

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10 AM Bible Study	2	3 Office Hrs: 9-12 9:00 Mission Com. 10:30 AM Bible St. 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study	4 10 AM Women with Purpose	5 11:00 AM Food Pantry 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	6
7 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	8 10 AM Bible Study, 10 AM FNMK Bagging	9 6 Pm Ministry Team	10 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible St. 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study	11 10 AM Emmaus Agape Gr.	12 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	13
14 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	15 10 AM Bible Study	16 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon Food Pantry	17 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible St. 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study	18 1:00-4:00 PM Food Pantry <i>Mission Team departs for Gallup (gone thru Sat.)</i>	19 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	20
21 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	22 10 AM Bible Study	23	24 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible St. 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study	25	26 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	27
28 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship Baseball Outing	29 10 AM Bible Study	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
Sister Barbara Kopecki	3800 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659	
Ella Jerome	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	312-2992
Wanda Schierling	21 Purple Aster, Bernalillo, NM 87004	970-398-0501
Polly Van Lenten	920 Riverview Dr. SE, Apt 280, Rio Rancho 87124	979-277-4852
Vi Ortega	517 Dartmouth Pl SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106	985-0953
Pat McElwain	4536 Ambrose Alday SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	235-7484
Goldie Buckner	920 Riverview Dr. SE Apt. 205 Rio Rancho, NM 87124	828-0486



Warren & Jan Herrington	April 11
Barry & Mary Ann Birch	April 15
Dave & 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
Bill Mason	April 12
Wand Giovengo	April 16
Mike Whelan	April 19
Pauline Walker	April 20
Gay Smart	April 21
Lori Kottenbrook	April 22
Nan Whelan	April 22
Joan Bauman	April 24
Trixie Maclay	April 25
Earl Van Doren	April 28
Taylor Clause-DeBlanc	April 28
Vi Ortega	April 29



ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES

IN THE BIBLE:

CORNELIUS WAS AN ITALIAN CENTURION WHO FEARED AND LOVED GOD. ONE DAY HE HAD A VISION FROM GOD, THROUGH AN ANGEL, COMMANDING HIM TO BRING SIMON PETER TO CAESAREA. THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT STORY IN ACTS 10.

JUDY's JABBER, by Judy Ballard

To Recycle or Not to Recycle

The creation story in Genesis tells us that not only did God provide everything humankind could possibly need, but charged us with dominion over All OF IT. What do you suppose that means? Could He possibly be talking to you personally? Of course He is!

Dominion carries great responsibility for those expected to respond to the challenge. As residents of this great planet, we are entrusted with the care and upkeep of our surroundings. For great population areas, this means constant, humongous effort to maintain livable, relatively clean-living conditions. Recycling is a huge piece of that maintenance. We all know that. No doubt most of us do our part—separating plastics, cardboard, aluminum and tin cans, newspapers, etc. from our other disposable trash. Good for you! Give yourself a pat on the back!

But what about glass? Glass is just more debris to go out in the regular waste pickup at the curb, right? I urge you to rethink this practice! The recycling of glass is a very vital piece of our 'dominion' efforts. You see, glass has some very interesting details—for one, it has perfect integrity, meaning it can be used again and again and never lose its purity and scientific value.

Glass is 'recycled' in more places than you might imagine to create new consumer items: repurposed into containers (medical, scientific labs), uses in industry in general, insulation, faux turf, countertops, golf club sand, etc. However, tempered, heat resistant glass such as Pyrex, cannot be used with other glass to be melted down because it will alter the viscosity in the liquid rendered in the furnace.

Recycling GLASS has many benefits: saves energy, lowers the use of new raw materials, extends the life of recycling equipment, and lowers emissions in general. Americans get rid of 10 million metric tons of glass annually. Although only a third gets recycled, it is vital that we keep up and expand the habit of reusing glass. But where do we put that glass trash? No worries. Judy Ballard will pick up your disposable glass from the church on Wednesdays and Sundays. Please place your bags or boxes behind the south door of the Sunday School Room. I will cart it to the GLASS RECYCLING collection receptacle site. Let's us do our part!

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 more information, see Drew Ammons or John Kottenbrook.



HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Email: highdesertumc@outlook.com

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

April, 2024 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for April, 2024 are:

Friday, April 6, at 11:00 AM

Tuesday, April 16, at 9:00 AM

Thursday, April 18, at 1:00 PM

April Collection: Canned Meats (ham, tuna, chicken)

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

Contact John Samford at (505) 870-0667

for more information.
