

*"Changing One Life at a Time"*

# HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## ***REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS***

Well, another month and we are still dealing with the coronavirus. Back in March when we had to suspend in person worship, I thought that everything would be back to some form of normality by now. But as the old saying goes: "If you want to make God laugh tell Him your plans!" However, we were able to resume in person worship on June 7 thanks to efforts of the Work Group that developed procedures in accordance with the CDC and State guidelines. Special thanks to John Samford, Earl Hester, Gordon Golsan, Lisa Isenberger, Dr. Bruce Packard, and Keith Witt for their hard work and insight.

We have now been back in worship for two months and things seem to be going well. The new arrangement of the chairs is providing the necessary social distancing. The prepared communion cups are providing added safety. I do miss the congregation singing; there's something special when we join together in lifting our voices in praise to the Lord. However, we have been blessed by gifted soloists who have inspired us over the past two months. Special thanks to lone Harrand, Warren Herrington, Lisa Isenberger, Ron Komatz, John and Lori Kottenbrook, Jenny

Kottenbrook, Bruce Packard, Frank Rotolo, Rey Schuman, and Judy Thomas.

I have always tried to find something good in every situation in life, especially the bad and difficult times like right now. One of the best changes that we have made in the worship services is using the projector to display the announcements prior to worship, the hymns and all the readings. With the leadership of Keith Witt and the assistance of Earl Hester, Bruce Packard, John Kottenbrook and Lisa Isenberger, the image is bright and readable from anywhere in the sanctuary. This has greatly enhanced our worship services. While you may have not noticed it, a lot of improvements have been made to the church during the past few months thanks to the behind the scenes work of Earl Hester, Ron Komatz and many others.

I also want to thank you for your continued generosity, especially during the shutdown. We were not only able to meet our monthly expenses but were also able to add to our Rainy Day Fund which is now over \$50,000; thanks to Eileen Sever for

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managing the church's finances. While the doors of the church were closed on Sundays, the ministries of the church have continued. Thanks to Mike Fawcett and John Samford and all the volunteers the Pantry has continued to distribute food to those in need three times a month in the church parking lot. Under the leadership of Wanda Golsan and Women with Purpose food packages have been distributed to students at three local schools to eat over the weekends. Thanks to Dave and Sue Durantz for preparing a meal for the homeless at Community of Hope. We have also taken on a new ministry of purchasing food to feed the homeless at the Interfaith Bible Center in the International Zone.

Hopefully, we will all be able to return to normal worship in the near future. However, I truly understand those of you who are a little reluctant to come back right now. We will continue to follow the CDC and State guidelines. Our goal is ensuring the safety and well-being of each of you. You are all in my prayers each day. I look forward to when we will all be able to gather again in worship to our Lord God. God Bless.

***Reuben***

# WOMEN WITH PURPOSE



Some weeks ago the First Baptist Church in Rio Rancho sported a couple of worthy phrases on their marquee sign:

**CHURCH IS CLOSED**

**MISSIONS ARE NOT**

“In these challenging times” that same sentiment is reflected by churches of all denominations, High Desert included. Our sanctuaries may not be filled with throngs of churchgoers, and likely won’t be back to normal in that regard for some time. However, the *spirit* of our missions remains strong. We are committed to helping those in need, wherever that need is identified. One of the strongest commitments of HDUMC’s mission outreach is **FEED NEW MEXICO KIDS**.

On Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> WWP will meet to bag up food supplies for that effort. The bagging is scheduled for 10 a.m. to noon, and anyone interested in volunteering for a **one-hour shift** is asked to call Wanda Golsan at 796-4929.

Be assured that all CDC guidelines for safety will be observed.

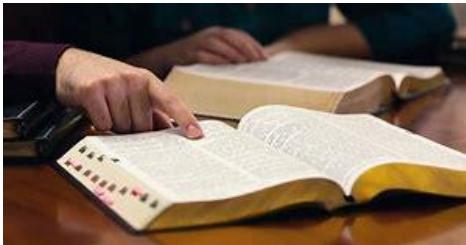
**Remember when mailing to the Church office,  
please use PO Box 45378, Rio Rancho, NM 87174**

## BIBLE STUDY

*Sunday Mornings at 10:00 AM at the Church – Tony Smith, teaching*

*Wednesday Morning at 10:30 AM at the Church – Judy Ballard, teaching*

# OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: Who Was Simeon of the New Testament?

*Judy Ballard*

## **ANSWER FOR AUGUST:**

### **Who was Nathan of the Old Testament? (2 Samuel 7 and 2 Samuel 12:1-15)**

Nathan was a prophet in the time of David and Solomon. David confided in the prophet about his concern that while he, King David, lived in a permanent house of cedar, the ark of the Lord God dwelled in a flimsy tent. It had been that way since God brought His people up out of Egypt. After this conversation, Nathan had a dream/vision from God with a message for David:

“Did I not take you from tending flocks of sheep to be a ruler over all my people? Why have you not built me a place for the ark of the covenant? I have protected you from all your enemies, guaranteed you a great name, and established your children to carry on your kingdom.”

Thus, Nathan was responsible for David’s godly desire to honor God for all his blessings. Until David redirected his energies (2 Samuel 12:1-15) and committed a sin with Bathsheba. On that occasion Nathan recited a parable about a rich man and a poor man. The rich man was unwilling to take one of his many sheep to feed a traveler/guest and so took the poor man’s only lamb to prepare a meal. Of course, David was outraged at this injustice until Nathan compared it to David’s own situation of his murder of Bathsheba’s husband.

## **AUGUST SECOND MILE GIVING**

The Second Mile Giving for August will go to purchasing gift baskets for the nurses’ stations at Rust and Lovelace Westside Hospitals. The doctors, nurses, and staff at our local hospitals have gone the extra mile and put in long hours to ensure our safety and health during the coronavirus. We plan to give them baskets with goodies and snacks purchased from local stores to show our appreciation. Please mark “Hospital Gift Baskets” on the memo line of your check.

## **MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE SERIES – SHARED BY DOTTIE HESTER**

### **My favorite Bible verse: Isaiah 40:31**

**This verse has always been a favorite of mine. My hope in the Lord has kept me with strength to get through many situations we encountered in our moves to different parts of the country with three small children.**

**“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on the wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”**

*Dottie Hester*

## **FORGIVENESS**

Forgiveness is an essential part of our salvation.

Jesus told us to ask for forgiveness from those who hurt us (Matthew 6:15). That's what He did (Luke 23:34). We cannot muster up enough human power to do this. We must let Him do it through us.

Corrie TenBoom was preaching to a large congregation in the United States. After the service, a man reached out to shake her hand and tell her he had become a Christian. She recognized him as one of the Nazi guards who worked in the Concentration Camp, she and her family were in. She told the Lord that she could not shake his hand. The Lord told her that He could do it through her. So, she shook his hand. Deliverance for both.

A dear friend of mine was treated brutally and unfairly by his mother. He was 8 years old when she placed him in a state mental hospital for children. After about a year, he escaped and found his way home. She called authorities and they took him back to the institution. He remained there until he was 18 and his wealthy grandfather helped him. He attended a very prestigious college and did well. He married and had two children. In order to grow in his Christian faith, he asked God to help him forgive his mother, and that did happen. They had many years of good relationship before she passed away.

Unforgiveness leads to confusion, depression and sickness (I Cor. 11:27-30).

First, we must ask for God's forgiveness. We have been selfish, stubborn and lazy. We accept God's forgiveness and then we must forgive ourselves and all others. This is vital. And when this kind of forgiveness happens, miraculous things happen for us and many others.

*Arlene Westgaard*



**Our “Angel Among Us” this month goes out to Lisa Isenberger!** How to begin to list all that Lisa does for HDUMC? If you attend the 11:00 service, you will know who Lisa is by sight, because she is a frequent soloist, usher, greeter and liturgist. Lisa also works at the Pantry and it would make one tired just watching her work. She participated on the Ministry team and the COVID19 Task Force. Recently Lisa has donated her time and efforts in making masks for anyone who would like one (Please note the thank you note in this issue from the Four Corners Ministry). A description of Lisa could be “A Glad Heart”. She is always looking for ways to show Christ to others through her actions and words. We are blessed to have her. **THANK YOU, Lisa!**



## UPDATE FROM THE EDITOR:

We are starting another new monthly article about the History of HDUMC. We have quite a few new members who really do not know how our church was started, including myself. Each week I will be putting in new information you might not know of until I run out of information or until it becomes boring. We are continuing the feature of “Obscure Names In The Bible”, and Judy Ballard will be providing the information for that. I have put a basic August calendar in, with the start of returning to the old schedule. Make sure you call the office if you are not sure about scheduled activities. Please do not forget to send me articles or suggestions for our “Monthly Angel”. Be safe, but most of all be happy!

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

Francie Larsen

Next Deadline: August 23rd



# **High Desert United Methodist Church**

## **Donation of Face Masks –**

### **“Still Doing Our Part”**

**(Thank you note to Lisa Isenberger)**

Dearest Lisa & High Desert UMC

Thank you so very much for your donation of Masks. These masks have become an essential commodity. We work to give the masks out to the community or whoever is in need.

In fact, just this week we have given 500 masks to the hospital who is always in need.

Thank you again for coming to make a difference through saving lives. May God continue to bless you always.

*Reverend Tweedy Navaretti  
Executive Director*

#### **TEN POINTS TO PONDER**

**by Charlene Brandt**

- (1) Prayer is not a “spare wheel” that you pull out when in trouble, but a “steering wheel” that directs the right path throughout the journey.
- (2) Why is a car’s windshield so large and the rear-view mirror so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on.
- (3) Friendship is like a book. It takes a few minutes to burn, but years to write.
- (4) All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy them, for they won’t last forever. If things are going wrong, don’t worry—they won’t last forever either.
- (5) Old friends are like gold, and new friends are like diamonds; if you have a diamond, you must not forget the gold! Remember, to hold onto the DIAMOND, you will always need a base of gold.
- (6) Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, “Relax my dear, it’s just a bend, not the end.”
- (7) When God solves your problems, that means you have faith in His abilities; when God doesn’t solve your problems, it means he has faith in YOUR abilities.
- (8) A blind person once asked St. Anthony, “Can there be anything worse than losing your sight?” St. Anthony replied, “Yes, losing your vision!”
- (9) When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them according to your requests. Therefore, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
- (10) Worrying does not take away tomorrow’s TROUBLES, it takes away today’s PEACE.

## Lay 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.

Lorra Garner	Skies Health and Rehab, 9450 McMahon NW, Albuq, NM 87114	
Norvin Schuman	382 Nicklaus Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-0526
Grover Donahoe	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	220-3839
Rod & Louise Warpole	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	994-9339
Mae Washburn	Revenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr NW, Albuq., NM 87120	
Phil Pittman	Ravenna Assisted Living,, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NM, Rio Rancho, NM 87124 Rm 28	
Glen Nesbitt	Advantage Asst Living, 305129 Wellspring Ave SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	
Sheila Arce	4910 Tramway Redge Dr NE #316, Albq., NM 87111	
Jeanne Buchly	The Retreat, 4100 Jackie Rd SE, Rio Rancho NM 87124	
Barbara Gatzweiler	4102 Malaga Court SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	994-1964
Lois Brister	2867 Cripple Creek Drive SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	892-7987
David Zapf	64 olguin Road, Corrales, NM 87048	890-0113
Jenny Kottenbrook	248 Quixote Drive SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	328-4347



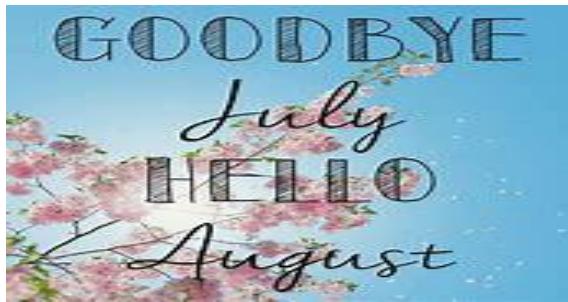
Happy birthday!		
Gordon Golson	8/2	
Gloria Sims-Graham	8/3	
Judy Sampson	8/8	
Ton Creveling	8/10	
Bobbie Morris	8/11	
Paul Lewis	8/13	
Del Larsen	8/13	
Danny Bristow	8/17	
Doris Donahoe	8/20	
Benjamin Kottenbrook	8/22	
Barbara Gatzweiler	8/23	
Jana Siverts	8/25	
Eileen Sever	8/26	
Lorraine Zapf	8/27	
Arlene Westgaard	8/27	

Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Lynn & Jana Siverts	8/10/1996
Chuck & Mary Lou Schimke	8/13/1966
Jeff & Elaine Pratt	8/14/1993
Benjamin & Tammy Thomas	8/21/2009
Keith & Diane Witt	8/21/1976
Ken & Sandy Dewbre	8/29/1975



# August 2020



HIGH DESERT UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	3	4	5 Bible Study 10:30 AM	6	7 Food Pantry 11AM to 2PM	8
9 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	10	11	12 Bible Study 10:30 AM	13	14	15
16 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	17	18 Food Pantry 9 to Noon	19 Bible Study 10:30 AM	20 Food Pantry 1 to 4 PM	21	22
23 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	24	25	26 Bible Study 10:30 AM	27 <b>Feed NM Kids</b>	28	29
30 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	31					



1 World Avenue • Little Rock, AR 72202  
 888.5HUNGER • 888.548.6437  
[www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) • [info@heifer.org](mailto:info@heifer.org)

# THANK YOU!

Donor ID:	8-15987921
Receipt Number:	14526407
Date Received:	6/30/2020
Amount:	\$1,000.00

Purchase: General Fund (1000.00)

000000285 RN01 07/07/2020 H:0 S:0 K:0 M:0 P:0 A:0

#BWCDJDN

#1F503EC1C1DB41A5#

High Desert UMC 4200 Meadowlark Ln SE Ste  
6

Rio Rancho, NM 87124-1050 Dear Friends:

There is so much for us to be uncertain about right now. Heifer participants in the 21 countries where we work are some of the most vulnerable to the pandemic. But while things may be uncertain, I'm sure of one thing: With you by their side, hardworking families around the world have the best possible chance to fend off hunger and poverty.

You stepped up at a time when most would not. That's why I want to extend my warmest appreciation for your recent contribution of \$1,000.00 to Heifer.

Your thoughtful support provides livestock to people in need, as well as training and resources to raise their animals properly and cultivate their crops. And right now, as COVID-19 and the resulting global hunger crisis continue to upend lives, your support guarantees that families who once lifted themselves out of hunger and poverty never go back.

With your support, we are finding new and innovative ways to ensure that farmers in places like Nepal have enough feed for their cattle and a way to get their milk to market. Your support ensures that small business owners in Ecuador can get produce to urban markets, despite lockdowns. Your support makes its way around the world, helping those who simply need a hand up to help themselves.

At the same time, you are letting Heifer families know how much you really care about their well-being and that you truly believe in them. This is an extraordinary gift in itself!

You give them the encouragement they desperately need to achieve a better life for their children and to lift up their community.



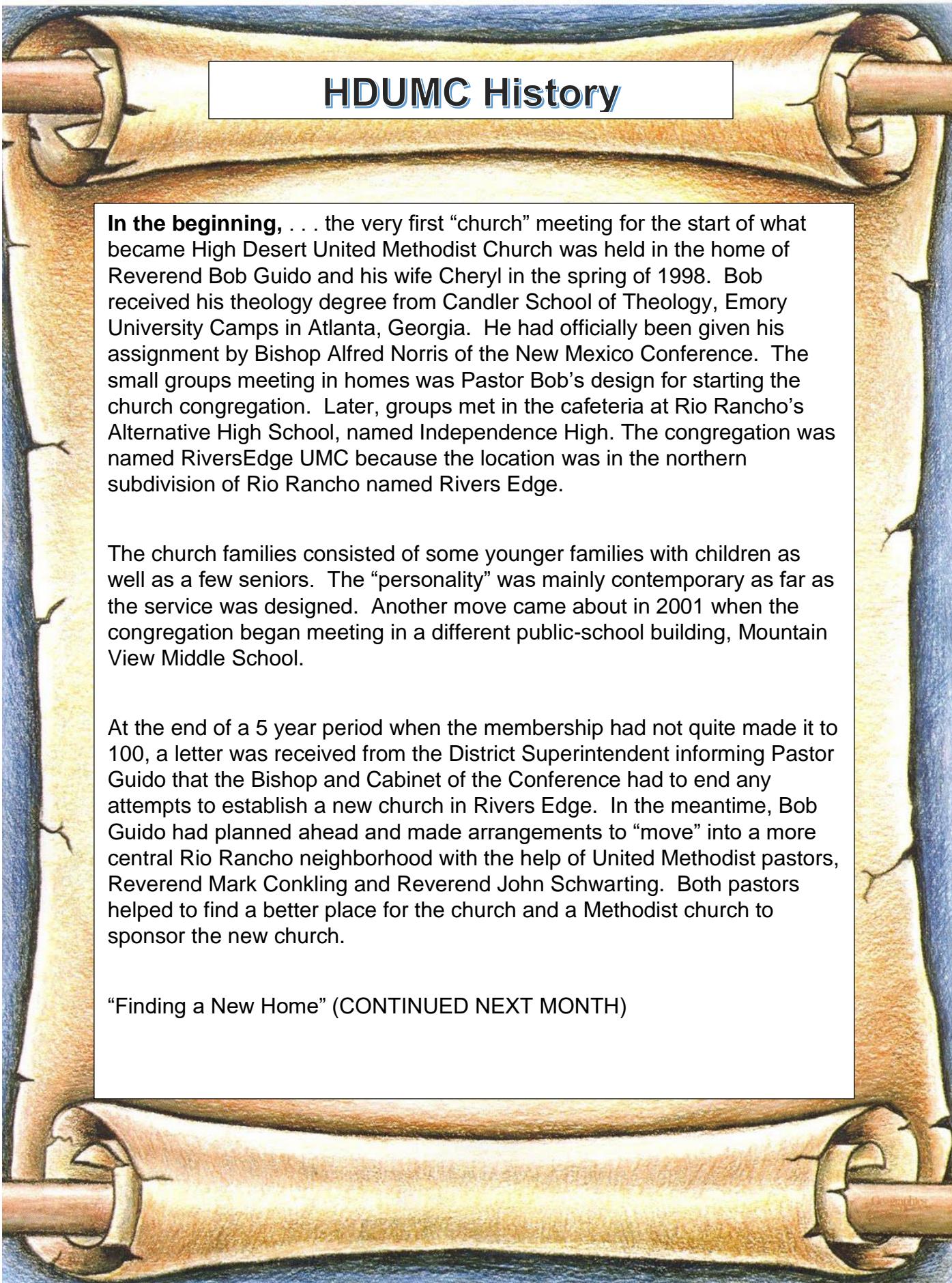
0000000101

So when a little boy finally goes to bed with a full stomach ... when parents earn enough to send their daughter to school... when a determined woman transforms herself into a successful entrepreneur and role model ... it's because of your generosity and friendship.

I can't stress enough the tremendous impact you are making as you help create lasting change, hope and security the world over. Thank you for showing your compassion — even in the most challenging of times. I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well.

With much gratitude.

Pierre U. Ferrari



## HDUMC History

**In the beginning, . . .** the very first “church” meeting for the start of what became High Desert United Methodist Church was held in the home of Reverend Bob Guido and his wife Cheryl in the spring of 1998. Bob received his theology degree from Candler School of Theology, Emory University Camps in Atlanta, Georgia. He had officially been given his assignment by Bishop Alfred Norris of the New Mexico Conference. The small groups meeting in homes was Pastor Bob’s design for starting the church congregation. Later, groups met in the cafeteria at Rio Rancho’s Alternative High School, named Independence High. The congregation was named RiversEdge UMC because the location was in the northern subdivision of Rio Rancho named Rivers Edge.

The church families consisted of some younger families with children as well as a few seniors. The “personality” was mainly contemporary as far as the service was designed. Another move came about in 2001 when the congregation began meeting in a different public-school building, Mountain View Middle School.

At the end of a 5 year period when the membership had not quite made it to 100, a letter was received from the District Superintendent informing Pastor Guido that the Bishop and Cabinet of the Conference had to end any attempts to establish a new church in Rivers Edge. In the meantime, Bob Guido had planned ahead and made arrangements to “move” into a more central Rio Rancho neighborhood with the help of United Methodist pastors, Reverend Mark Conkling and Reverend John Schwarting. Both pastors helped to find a better place for the church and a Methodist church to sponsor the new church.

“Finding a New Home” (CONTINUED NEXT MONTH)

# How This Pandemic Has Affected Others

By Judy Ballard

A couple of weeks ago I received an odd piece of mail addressed to Judith G. Ballard. That's the name on my drivers' license, and any mail addressed to me that way should be official, don't you think? But this was a generic envelope with ordinary handwriting. The return address was from a rented mailbox location. There didn't appear to be anything threatening about the piece of mail, so I opened it.

'Dear Judith,' it started. Obviously not from anyone I knew personally. The sender identified herself as a neighbor of mine, and went on to 'introduce' herself, and her wish to share her faith with me. She is a member of Jehovah's Witnesses, though she didn't club me over the head with that information. She simply invited me to participate from a distance if I chose to. It occurred to me that these groups of people (and others such as the 2-year mission trips of young Mormon men) who are regularly out and about in our neighborhoods are now sharply curtailed in their activities. How does this ugly pandemic impact them in their heartfelt pursuits?

I waited awhile before I thought God wanted me to respond. So, I did. I told her I was active in my church, High Desert United Methodist Church and thanked her for writing. I cautioned her to 'stay safe' and signed off. Lo, and behold! I received another letter, this one addressed to Judy. Much friendlier. And she proposed that we continue corresponding as scriptural pen pals if I was open to that suggestion. Neither of us are bent on converting the other, and I see no reason not to do this. In fact, I believe such a 'friendship' has more to do with lifting spirits and sharing sunshine than anything else. If I can alleviate someone's loneliness, I believe I am charged with doing so. As a child of God, am I not bound to address a need if I recognize one?

## CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Church:	<a href="mailto:highdesertumc@outlook.com">highdesertumc@outlook.com</a>
Pastor Reuben:	<a href="mailto:rjthomas@msn.com">rjthomas@msn.com</a>
Jenny Kottenbrook	<a href="mailto:highdesertumc@outlook.com">highdesertumc@outlook.com</a>
Frank Rotolo	<a href="mailto:frnkrtl@hotmail.com">frnkrtl@hotmail.com</a>
Arlene Westgaard:	<a href="mailto:arleneruth@hotmail.com">arleneruth@hotmail.com</a>
Jeff Pratt, Bus Driver:	<a href="mailto:Jeffrey.a.pratt@intel.com">Jeffrey.a.pratt@intel.com</a>
Francie Larsen, Newsletter:	<a href="mailto:highdesertumc@outlook.com">highdesertumc@outlook.com</a> or <a href="mailto:generations4counseling@hotmail.com">generations4counseling@hotmail.com</a>

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## **High Desert United Methodist Church**

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Rio Rancho, NM 87174  
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9AM-Noon & 1-4PM  
Phone: 505-891-4206;  
Email:  
[highdesertumc@outlook.com](mailto:highdesertumc@outlook.com)

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[Facebook.com/HDUMC](https://www.facebook.com/HDUMC)

Or

Follow us on Twitter at:

[Twitter.com/highdesertumc](https://twitter.com/highdesertumc)

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

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## **HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY**

**Distribution dates for July are:**

**Friday, August 7th at 11:00 a.m.**

**Tuesday, August 18th at 9:00 a.m.**

**Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**

**August Collection: Rice (small bags) and Dry Beans**