

High Desert United Methodist Church

Monthly Newsletter December 2019

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

On December 1st we will start celebrating Advent with a Christmas Concert by Irma and Scott Reeder. Advent is celebrated on the four Sundays preceding Christmas. The word "advent" comes from the Latin word meaning "to come to a place" or "to arrive." In the context of coming, Advent becomes a season of preparation by Christians for Christmas, our celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is not known when this period of preparation that is called Advent first began, although some believe that it was about the year 480.

Each Sunday during Advent we will begin the worship service with a reading and lighting a candle on the Advent wreath. The concept of the wreath originated among German Lutherans in the 16th century. However, it was not until three centuries later that the modern Advent wreath took shape. The modern wreath with candles representing the Sundays of Advent originated from an 1839 initiative by Johann Hinrich Wichern, a Protestant pastor in Germany.

The primary color of Advent is purple, the color of royalty. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God Himself, His eternal; and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. The candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His Son. They represent the light, hope, joy and peace that Jesus brought into a world in desperate need of this. On Christmas Eve we celebrate by lighting the Christ Candle. Jesus, who is our Light, comes into the world to dispel the darkness of sin, death, and evil.

In addition, we will decorate the atrium with the Chrismon Tree. The concept of the Chrismon Tree was developed in 1957 by Frances Kipps Spencer, of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, when she set out to create decorations appropriate for the church's Christmas celebrations. The Chrismon Tree is highly symbolic; conveying the life of Christ and the meaning of Christmas through commonly found items and easily understood symbols.

While the decorations and symbols are important in our celebration and preparation for Christmas, the most important thing is opening our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ. Don't get so caught up in the commercial aspect of the season trying to give everybody the perfect gift, decorating the house so that the lights can be seen from outer space, and so busy trying to have the perfect Christmas that you miss it entirely. Instead set aside some time each day to listen to Christmas music, read the Bible, and reflect on past Christmases, your family and friends and all the blessings that God has bestowed on you.

Finally, as I asked you last year; when you are in a restaurant, store, or other places and the waiter or clerk says "Happy Holidays," reply with a big smile and a big "MERRY CHRISTMAS!"

Let's keep Christ in Christmas!

Merry Christmas!

Reuben





*Women
With
Purpose*

**Tues. Dec, 3rd
6:00 p.m.
&
Wed. Dec. 4th
10:00 am**

In its relatively short history, Women With Purpose has made quite an impact on our community's various charities. HDUMC's WWP Christian outreach has earned a positive reputation, and will continue to do so. However, we are focusing inward for this month's service-to-others project—our own **Care Ministry** list of names. The names and addresses of those who are homebound are printed every Sunday with the bulletin. You are encourage to visit, send cards, or call some of these members
scripture on page 9 in the Shar-

WWP is planning a very special
brance for each of the names,
priate.



(see Leuretta Lewis's choice of
ing Scripture Series).

and personal holiday remem-
plus arrange visits where appro-

What was Nehemiah commissioned to do in the O.T.? Neh. 2:1-8

MEADOWLARK METHODIST CHURCH PANTRY

We take an offering on the first Sunday of every month to benefit the Food Pantry. On Sunday, Dec. 1st a basket will be on the back table to receive your offering. Featured collection for Dec. is:

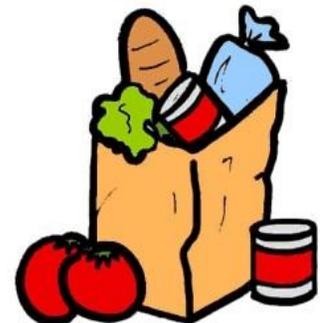
Distribution dates for December are:

Friday, Dec. 6th 1st. at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 17th 19th at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, NDec. 19th at 1 :00 p.m.

NOTICE: We are not collecting plastic bags until further notice.



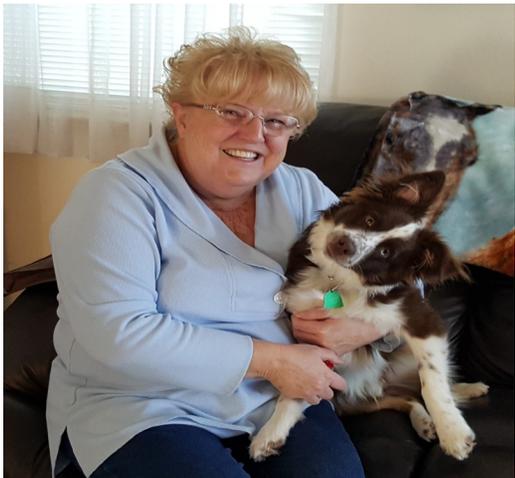
Meet Francie Larson

Most of you may know by now that I have been looking for a replacement editor for the HDUMC newsletter. Imagine my joy when Francie called to say she was interested! When we met at my home to discuss turning over the template to her, she brought examples of her own newsletters. Very impressive; Francie's background makes her the perfect choice for this task!



Francie has a Bachelor's degree in HR Management and a Master's in Counseling. Her last stint in the workplace was as a licensed Nursing Home Administrator. For 18 years prior to that, she ran assisted living and nursing home communities in Missouri, Nebraska, Arizona and New Mexico. Throughout this career path, Francie has generated newsletters for the various communities. Who could ask for better references?

She and her husband Del have a blended family of 6 children, 18 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren (and counting). The Larsons settled in New Mexico about a year and a half ago, mostly to be near a daughter and grandchildren but also to follow Pastor Reuben—they were former members of St. Stephens UMC when Pastor Reuben and Judy served there. "We just fell in love with the friendly and intimate environment of High Desert United Methodist Church," Francie said.



BTW, the HDUMC members who participated in the Feed New Mexico Kids Bagging Party had the joy of meeting sweet Adelai a most charming cherub, the Larson's newest great-granddaughter.

Wanda Golsan has a new moniker whether she knows it or not! We're gonna call her Wanda the Wonder. At first service on Nov. 17th she called for a full house to show up to 'bag' the goodies for the Feed project later that afternoon. Well, she got that and more New Mexico Kids that afternoon. . . . The whole event (inc. cookie bake sale and Chuck Schimke musical entertainment) was a huge success

THANK YOU



December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>1 9:00 am musical service</i> <i>11:00 worship service</i></p>	2	<p><i>3 Women With Purpose</i></p>	<p><i>4 10 am Women with Purpose</i> <i>1 pm Mission Team</i></p>	5	<p><i>6 Food Pantry 11:00 am</i></p>	7
<p>8 9 & 11 a.m. worship <i>10: a.m. SS</i> <i>Congregational Care Meets</i></p>	9	<p>10 Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Team Ministry 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>11 Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir Practice 6:30</p>	12	<p>13 Emmaus Gathering at Asbury UMC 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>14 2 pm WWP Christmas gathering</p>
<p><i>15 9 a.m. Christmas Cantata</i> 11 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. SS</p>	16	<p>17 Food Pantry 9:00 am Bible Study 1:30 pm</p>	<p>18 Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir Practice 6:30</p>	<p>19 Food Pantry 1:00 pm</p>	20	<p>21 1-4 Christmas Caroling</p>
<p>22 Ugly Sweater Sunday ***** 9 & 11 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. SS</p>	23	<p>24 5 pm Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25 Merry Christmas</p>	26	27	28
<p>29 9 & 11 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. SS</p>	30	<p>31 Bible Study 1:30 pm</p>				

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, Albuquerque, NM 87114	
Nelson & Joey Archuleta	1740 Hudson River Rd. NE, Rio Rancho 87144	235-0774
Norvin Schuman	382 Nicklaus Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-0526
Grover Donahoe	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-0165
Rod & Louise Warpole	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	994-9339
Mae Washburn	Revenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120	
Phil Pittman	1000 Riverview Dr SE, #242, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	301-7704
Glen Nesbitt	Advantage Assisted Living, 1729 Wellspring Ave SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	
Sheila Arce	4910 Tramway Redge Dr NE #316, Albuquerque, NM 87111	
Jeanne Buchley	The Retreat, 4100 Jackie Rd SE, Rio Rancho NM 87124	
Barbara Gatzweiler	920 Riverview Dr. SE, Apt. 136, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	505-891-4745



Birthdays, Con't.

Sity Roach	12/29
Sara Hendricks	12/30
Cyd Ahlborn	12/31

Anniversaries

Bill & Kay Boss Jr.	12/23/89
Glenn & Sue Hinchcliff	12/23/67
Paul & Leuretta Lewis	12/24/61
Clint & Sally Scarlott	12/29/56



Please note the occasional change in this announcement: Steelbridge Resource Center (aka Albuquerque Rescue Mission) occasionally changes the focus of its collections/donations to meet their current needs. December 2019 donations: **NEW or gently used seasonal clothing, NEW socks & underwear; toiletries, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, combs.** There will be a container in the hall for your donations. For more info call Sheila Smith at 898-4644.

Emmaus Gathering Announcement . . . you are invited!

On Friday, Dec. 13th the Albuquerque Emmaus reunion group will gather for fellowship and food at Asbury UMC, 10000 Candelaria NE at 6:00 p.m. Won't you please consider attending to show our support this most worthy Christian outreach? Mark your calendars now! Call Linnette Carlson for more info. The next Gathering will be at Rio Rancho UMC on Jan. 24, 2020



Wesley Change for Charity is on the back table during worship service, waiting to be fed with your change or dollars. This allows High Desert to assist individuals, groups, and organizations with emergency financial needs.



Dec. 2019 collection for Meadowlark Methodist Food Pantry: Items are targeted for you to purchase to help replenish the shelves. Featured this month is: Please place these items in the green barrel found by the back tables. Contact Mike Fawcett at 715-456-3044 for info.



Recycling Sunday Bulletins—leave in recycling box by the back table; Plastic bags—leave in container marked for plastic bags; Aluminum cans—place in container marked Homeless Ministry. **Don't forget we have glass Recycling: Glass items normally disposed of in your trash. Bring to church and leave in the class/storage room on the counter.**



Condiments & Small Toiletries If you save the soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, etc. from staying in motels or hotels, please bring them to church along with the ketchup, taco sauce, mustard and any "take-out" condiments. The Rainbow Girls who are collecting for the Rio Rancho chapter of Blue Star Mothers to include in the packages they send our troops. For more information, contact Storehouse West at 892-2077.



The Upper Room This Daily Devotional Guide is available in regular and large print. Copies may be found Sunday mornings on the back table. Be sure to get your copy! Or read online: <http://devotional.upperroom.org/>



Printer Cartridges is a fund raiser to support Mission projects. Please place your empty inkjet & laser cartridges in the recycling box found on the back table.



UPC Labels for 2 schools in Rio Rancho. There is a large jar for your labels are provided on the back table on Sunday mornings.



Pull Tabs Save the pull tabs from your aluminum cans, soup cans, etc. You can put them in a ziplock bag and leave them on the table in the back of the church. For more info call Janet Greger at 867-4832 Presently they will go to the Ronald McDonald House charity.

9 AM Service					
<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>
Dec. 1	Pamela Lee Linnette Carlson	Harold & Judy Sampson	Pastor Reuben		
Dec. 8	Earl & Dottie Hester	Ken & Sandy Dewbre	Keith Witt	Lael Wellington	Jan Herrington
Dec. 15	Ken & Wanda Schierling	Mike & Sandie Fawcett	John Samford		Judy & Reuben Thomas
Dec. 22	Paul Lewis Dave Zapf	Gordon Golsan Bryce Hendricks	Pastor Reuben	Sue & Glenn Hinchcliffe	Lois Brister
Dec. 29	Del & Francie Larsen	Mike Fawcett Trixie MacLay	Glenda Barber	Dann & Jody Meyer	Paul & Leuretta Lewis
		11 AM Service			
Dec..1	Gloria Graham	Ron Komatz Lisa Isenberger	John Kottenbrook		
Dec. 8	Holly Benson	Chuck Schimke Janet Greger	Ron Komatz		
Dec. 15	Nancy Perry-Sebrell	Karen Malinka Rose Meyer	Lisa Isenberger		
Dec. 22	Janet Greger	Nancy Perry-Sebrell Ron Komatz	Bonnie Korngiebel		
Dec. 29	Gloria Graham	Bonnie Korngiebel Lisa Isenberger	Chuck Schimke		

With Heartfelt Thanks Thank you to the following who provided for the HDUMC Ministries last month.

9:00 a.m. Service

Greeters: Mike & Linda Bates, Ken & Sandy Dewbre, Judy Ballard, Glenda Barber, Lael Wellington, Pamela Lee

Ushers: Pamela Lee, Lael Wellington, Dann & Jody Meyer, Bryce Hendricks, Warren Herrington, Emily Sue Chambers; Mike Fawcett

Liturgists: Jana Siverts, Tony Smith, Barry Birch, Judy Ballard

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeters: Holly Benson, Gloria Graham, Nancy Perry-Sebrell, Janet Greger

Ushers: Bonnie Korngiebel, Diane Youells, Rose Meyer, Lisa Isenberger, Karen Malinka, Ron Komatz, Nancy Perry-Sebrell, Chuck Schimke

Liturgists: Chuck Schimke, Janet Greger, Bonnie Korngiebel, Lisa Isenberger,

Altar Flowers: Roe & Paul Meyer, Bonnie Korngiebel

Refreshments: Jan Herrington

Those named and those not named above, thank you all so much for your continued support.

Are You Ready For Christmas?

Luke 3:4-6 NIV

“A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind shall see God’s salvation’”

Are you ready for Christmas? That’s a question we hear quite often these days, isn’t it? What do people mean when they ask if you re you ready for Christmas? Well they usually mean things like . . .

Do you have all your shopping done?

Have you finished wrapping all your gifts?

Have you put up your Christmas tree and all the decorations?

Have you sent your Christmas cards?

Have you finished all your holiday baking?

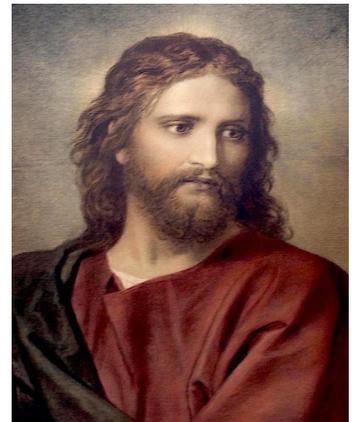
Is your house clean and ready for visitors?

Are you ready for Christmas? What things do you need to do before you are ready? There is another question that is much more important than, “Are you ready for Christmas?” The question is, “Are you ready for Christ?”

In the Bible lesson, we hear John the Baptist crying out, “Prepare the way for the Lord. Fill in the valleys and level off the mountains. Make the crooked roads straight and the rough places smooth.” Did John the Baptist really want the people to work on the roads?” No, John wanted the people to get ready for the coming of the Messiah. What he really meant was that the people needed to get their hearts right and return to God. You see, no matter how good people think they are, there are always crooked ways and rough in their lives. There are such things as dishonesty, selfishness, pride, jealousy, and many more. John wanted the people to make those crooked roads straight and smooth out the rough places so Jesus could come and walk among them.

During this special season of the year, you and I need to make sure that we are ready for the coming of the Christ of Christmas. We need to look into our hearts and ask God to make our crooked ways straight and smooth out the rough places so we can walk with Jesus each day of our life. Let’s ask Him to do that right now.

Charles Kottenbrook



Scripture Sharing Series— A double dose for my last edition of the HDUMC Newsletter!

"If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lords." **Paul Lewis** finds solace and comfort in these words from Paul's letters to the Romans (14:8. ESV), Succinct but potent words.

"When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all his angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to see me. 'Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee? And when did we see thee thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee as a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and come to visit thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly I say to you as you did it to these the least of my brethren, you did it for me.' Then he said to them at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' And they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty, or a stranger or naked or in prison, and did not minister to thee?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (Matt. 25:31-46, RSV) **Leuretta Lewis** says she was drawn to this powerful passage because it was also her mother's favorite part of the Bible.

Weekly Bible Study: A subject for everyone! Presently three groups meet during the week: **Adult Bible Study** (aka Adult Sunday School comes together at 10:00 a.m. between Services. **Tuesday afternoon Bible Study** meets at 1:30 p.m. to study the OT book of Joshua, the first of the historical books.

Wednesday eve Bible Study has started an overview on the New Testament



**VERY
IMPORTANT
NOTICE:**

JUDY BALLARD

HAS BANISHED HER LAND-LINE HOME PHONE!

I will only be using my cell phone:

505-240-0912



Mark your church directories, please!

**Francie sez . .
Items for next
Newsletter
due by Dec. 24**



HIGH DESERT UMC

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<i>Frank Rotolo</i>	frnkrtl@hotmail.com
<i>Arlene Westgaard:</i>	arleneruth@hotmail.com
<i>Jeff Pratt, Bus driver:</i>	Jeffrey.a.pratt@intel.com
<i>Judy Ballard, Newsletter:</i>	highdesertumc@cableone.net or writingwroom@msn.com (Judy)



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