

“Changing One Life at a Time”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

December 2020, Issue 12

It is hard to believe but Christmas is just around the corner; how time flies when you are having fun. Of course, the stores have had their Christmas decorations up way before Halloween. Many of us have already decorated our homes as well as the church. While the holidays are a busy time for Judy and me, I truly enjoy this time of the year. Even though this year will be different with all the restrictions due to the coronavirus, I look forward to spending time with my family and especially our grandchildren, when I can.

The Webster Dictionary defines holiday as “a day on which custom or the law dictates a cessation of general business activity to celebrate or commemorate a particular event; a religious feast day; or a day free from work that one may spend at leisure.” But to me, holidays, especially Christmas, is a time of fellowship when all the family comes together. When I was growing up in South Carolina, I remember that Christmas was a special time when all my aunts, uncles, and cousins would come back to the old homestead to renew acquaintances and

reminisce about past Christmases and loved ones who had gone on to be with the Lord. Christmas was my mother’s favorite time of the year. She always went out of her way to make sure that everybody felt welcomed and at home. She even invited friends who didn’t have any family nearby to come and have Christmas dinner with us.

The holidays are a time for family and fellowship, and while we all have our own families and relatives that I hope that you will be able to see this year, I hope that you consider the church and all who worship here as your family. As you can see throughout this newsletter, we have a lot of opportunities for you to gather as a family and celebrate the holidays. These include the Christmas Cantata at both services on Sunday December 6, Ugly Sweater Sunday on December 20 and our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services. This year we will have two services on Christmas Eve, at 4 and 6 pm. I hope that you will take advantage of these opportunities to fellowship and celebrate the birth of our Lord

and Savior and all that God has blessed us with.

One last thing, while we are a family, there is always room for one more. There are people in our neighborhoods, at work and school, and that we meet each and every day who are looking for a family – a place where they can be loved; a place where they can feel at home; and a place where they can worship and serve the Lord, especially this year. And High Desert is such a place. Let us each make a commitment to reach out and invite at least one person/family to join us for our worship services and other activities during this Christmas season. Also with the current restrictions and lockdown, many of our friends are homebound and unable to attend worship; please make a point to call them frequently and send them a Christmas card. Your concern and reaching out to someone may make all the difference in what kind of holiday that person may have! God shared His love with us on Christmas Eve by sending His Son to save us; so let us each share this love with others during this Christmas season. I hope and pray that each of you will have a blessed and safe holiday. Merry Christmas!

Reuben

ADVENT SCHEDULE

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. During Advent, we hope that you will join us for the following services:

November 29 First Sunday of Advent

Sermon: Matthew 1:18-25 The Forgotten Man

December 6 Second Sunday of Advent

Christmas Cantata at 9 am and 11 am

December 13 Third Sunday of Advent

Sermon: Matthew 1:18-25 Christmas Angels

December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Ugly Sweater Sunday

Sermon: Matthew 22:13-23 Unwanted Journey

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion Service

Services at 4 pm and 6 pm

Sermon: Luke 2:1-20 It's Christmas

Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us during the holidays.

JUST DOING OUR THING



Bonnie Korngiebel making gifts for members at Fair Winds



Operation Christmas Child – Goal of 40 and our church provided 64 boxes to be sent overseas! Way to go Arlene Westgaard!



Christmas

By Sheila Smith

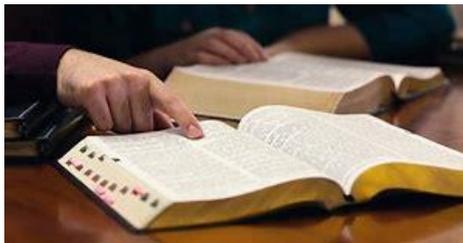
Christmas is in the air! Our worldly Christmas is full of good cheer, bright lights, wrapped gifts, decorated trees, warm fireplaces, delicious and plentiful meals, family fun and jolly heartfelt songs! Plus, all our churches fill up with friends and family to worship the Christ and celebrate His birth. This is a beautiful and joyous time.

But if we take some extra time to really think about that little baby in the manger, the CHRIST, we can appreciate all that He gave us. Sometimes, it is hard to imagine that little baby born in a manger who changed a very desperate world! He lived his whole life as a perfect lesson about how we should live our lives but for which we all wind up getting variable grades as we walk along our particular path of life! Christ's teachings all show us the importance of and the need for faith, hope and love. This is shown in His total equality and goodness to everyone. As we read the Bible, we can see how He would always go "the extra mile" to help the needy and pass on His message, the message of God.

Jesus Christ, that little baby in a manger, was an excellent teacher and role model for all of us. Hopefully, we have all developed that heart full of faith, hope and love for the future.

Here is wishing you a Very Merry Christmas!

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: Who was *Bartimaeus* of the New Testament?

Judy Ballard

ANSWER FOR NOVEMBER:

Who is Laban of the Old Testament?

Laban is the brother of Rebekah and father of Leah and Rachel. He shows up early in the Bible ranging from Genesis 24 through 31. First, he agrees to allow Rebekah to marry Isaac, then he entertains Jacob and ultimately agrees to allow him to marry Rachel (whom Jacob loves). However, Laban is bound to have his eldest daughter marry first so he sneakily substitutes Leah for Rachel. Because of this trickery, Jacob and Laban have a contentious relationship, although they eventually enter into a covenant with each other.

DECEMBER OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

SECOND MILE GIVING

Our Second Mile Giving for December will go towards the purchase of turkey breasts for the clients of the High Desert Methodist Food Pantry. If you would like to contribute to this mission project, please mark "Pantry Turkeys" on the memo line of your check.

TOY DRIVE

We will be collecting toys for local children to be distributed through St. Felix Pantry. There will be a container in the Narthex for your donation.

HELP THE HOMELESS

We are collecting socks, gloves, stocking caps, scarves and blankets to be distributed to the homeless through the Interfaith Bible Center in the International Zone in downtown Albuquerque. You may place your donations in the container in the Narthex.

Remember it is more blessed to give than to receive.



Our “Angel Among Us” this month goes out to Dottie Hester! First of all, let me apologize for using a picture where I had to cut Earl out, but I had to do it. Dottie has been a member of HDUMC for about 10 years and during that time has helped shape and build the church to where it is There isn’t anything she wouldn’t do for our church or its members. She helps with Women With Purpose, Feed NM Kids, and many cards and calls to members. But the most unique and special thing about Dottie is her dedication to Christ. She and her husband Earl represented our church with the Methodist NOMADS, a group who actually volunteered their time and efforts to travel to other churches to help physically build or rebuild. They would be gone from our church for weeks at a time and they still take a trip at times to see the churches they helped. **THANK YOU, Dottie for all you have done!**

I BELIEVE
THERE ARE
angels
AMONG US



UPDATE FROM THE EDITOR:

NEW, NEW, NEW!!!! Since it is Christmas, I thought a recipe would be great. Hope you like it and maybe we can continue it. Check out the new Bible Study. Hope you all enjoy your holidays and can keep Christ as the center focal point.

generations4counseling@hotmail.com or phone 505-331-8894. Francie Larsen



New Bible Study
January 6th
10 Weeks
Wednesday Mornings
10:00 AM at the Church
To Sign Up Contact Francie
331-8894

IN TIMES LIKE THESE

by Helen Steiner Rice

We read the headlines daily and listen to the news,
We shake our heads despairingly and glumly sing the blues,
We are restless and dissatisfied and we do not feel secure,
We are vaguely discontented with the things we must endure . . .
This violent age we live in is filled with nameless fears
As we listen to the newscasts that come daily to our ears,
And we view the threatening future with sad sobriety
As we're surrounded daily by increased anxiety . . .
How can we find security or stand on solid ground
When there's violence and dissension and confusion all around;
Where can we go for refuge from the rising tides of hate,
Where can we find a haven to escape this shameful fate . . .
So instead of reading headlines that disturb the heart and mind,
Let us open up the Bible and in doing so we'll find
That this age is no different from the millions gone before,
But in every hour of crisis God has opened up a door
For all who seek His guidance and trust His all-wise plan,
For God provides protection beyond that devised by man . . .
And we learn that each tomorrow is not ours to understand,
But lies safely in the keeping of the great Creator's Hand,
And to have the steadfast knowledge that we never walk alone
And to rest in the assurance that our every need is known
Will help dispel our worries, our anxieties and care,
For doubt and fear are vanquished in the peacefulness of prayer.

(Copyright 1967)

WOMEN WITH PURPOSE Thursday, December 3rd at 10 AM

What's significant about the number 75? Why that's how many pairs of tube socks we will be stuffing with essential toiletries, candy, and a granola bar. As a part of an ongoing Christmas tradition for WWP, we plan to distribute them to the men and women of the Interfaith Bible Center in the International Zone of Albuquerque. We are proud to partner up with Reverend Joanne Landry in her effort to make a difference.

Due to an anonymous generous gift from a WWP member we are able to add a portable flashlight this time for each of the 75 pairs of tube socks. Having these flashlights can be lifesaving and we feel so blessed to have this donation!

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.

Ella Jerome	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	206-4894
Lois Brister	2867 Cripple Creek Drive SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	892-7987
Sheila Arce	4910 Tramway Ridge Dr. NE, #318, Albq. NM 87111	
Glen Nesbitt	Advantage Assisted Living, 1729 Wellspring Ave. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	
Phil Pittman	Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NW Room 28, Albuquerque, NM 87120	
Mae Washburn	Revenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr NW, Albq. 87120	
Lorra Garner	Genesis, 9150 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq. 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	10301 Golf Course Rd. NW, #119D, Albq. 87114	238-0012



Happy birthday!	Sandie Fawcett	12/2	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Randy Sever	12/3	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Rose Meyer	12/10	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Gloria Lamoreux	12/14	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Glynda Samford	12/14	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Lou Christen	12/17	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Edna Billings	12/19	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Pamela Lee	12/20	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Jan Herrington	12/21	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Sue Hill	12/24	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Sity Roach	12/29	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Sara Hendricks	12/30	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Clara Mohr	12/31	Happy birthday!



Bill & Kay Boss	12/23
Glenn & Sue Hinchcliffe	12/23
Paul & Leuretta Lewis	12/24

Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

December

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 5:30 PM Bible Study	3 Women With Purpose 10:00 AM at the church	4 Food Pantry 11AM to 2PM	5
6 Christmas Cantata 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	7	8	9 5:30 PM Bible Study	10	11	12
13 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	14	15 Food Pantry 9 to Noon	16 5:30 PM Bible Study	17 Food Pantry 1 to 4 PM	18	19
20 Ugly Sweater Sun 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	21	22	23	24 4 PM 6 PM Christmas Eve Services	25	26
27 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	28	29	30 5:30 PM Bible Study	31		



One of the traditions I started way back in the sixties, when I was heading PNM's Consumer Marketing or Home Economics Dept., was to make Dresden Stollen every other Christmas. I worked and worked on the recipe and I am proud of the beautiful appearance and flavor.

I published it in my Freezer book. What is so great, even though it takes a bit of time to make is that it freezes beautifully--so you only have to bake it every other year!

Jane Butel

STOLLEN



The best of all stollens—I worked on this recipe for years and feel it is well worth the extra effort. For years I've been making a recipe every other year for serving on Christmas morning with champagne.

Temperature: 325 F

Baking time: 1 hour

Yield: 2 large loaves

¾ cup unsalted butter

½ cup sugar

1 teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon nutmeg

1/2 teaspoon mace (if you do not have mace, substitute more nutmeg)

Grated rind of 1 lemon

Grated rind of ½ orange

2 eggs

¼ cup dark rum, brandy or sherry

1 cup milk

1 package active dry yeast

¼ cup warm water

6 cups all-purpose flour, approximately

1 cup raisins

1 cup currants (if unavailable, substitute more raisins)

¼ pound each candied orange peel, lemon peel, and citron

1 slice candied pineapple

1 cup toasted almonds 1 ½ pound candied whole red and green cherries

¼ cup melted butter

Powdered sugar

1. Cream butter, add sugar gradually and cream until fluffy. Blend in salt, nutmeg, mace, lemon and orange rind.
2. Add eggs. One at a time, beating well after each addition. Add liquor and milk.
3. Soften yeast in water and stir into mixture. Add flour until dough is easy to handle. Turn out on a lightly floured board and knead until the dough is satin smooth and the gluten is well developed.
4. Do not add more than $\frac{1}{2}$ cup flour into the dough while kneading as too much flour will make the bread dry and coarse.
5. Mix together all fruit except cherries, then dredge with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup flour, making sure each piece is covered.
6. When the dough is smooth, add the fruit and almonds, a small amount at a time, until the fruit is spread throughout the dough and all is used.
7. Poke holes in the dough with your forefinger and place a cherry in each hole. This prevents mashing the cherries.
8. Divide the dough in half and place in large well-greased bowls; brush generously with melted butter and set a warm place to rise. Since the dough is heavy with fruit, it will require about 8 hours to rise.
9. 9. To form, turn out on a lightly floured board, punch down and divide in half. To make typical stollen or crescent shaped loaves, first pat the dough into an oblong shape, then fold in half lengthwise.
10. Place loaves on a greased baking sheet; brush with butter and let rise until doubled.
11. Preheat oven to 325F during last 10 minutes of rising.
12. 12. Bake for 1 hour, brush several times with melted butter as the loaves are baking. When baked, dust generously with powdered sugar just before serving. Serve warm.

Reprinted with permission from Jane Butel's Freezer Cookbook.



HOW I GOT TO HDUMC . . .

Growing up in small towns, with Sandie's family attending a Presbyterian church in Bayfield, Wisconsin and my family attending the Evangelical United Brethren church in Wheeler Wisconsin, we were fortunate to have our families both move to Eau Claire in the summer of 1965. We had both just graduated and were looking forward to starting at the University that fall. In Eau Claire, we began going to services at Lake Street Methodist church which eventually became Chapel Heights United Methodist where we would be the 1st couple married in the church after being newly constructed in October 1969.

After graduating from UWEC, we moved to San Diego, California to seek "fame and fortune" with Sandie working as a telephone operator and I working as Production Manager for a Printing & Publishing company. During our time in California, we drifted away from the church, with the demands of work and starting a family taking priority, and eventually we moved back to Eau Claire to be close to family. We have always ridden motorcycles, so it was natural that we began attending Truax United Church of Christ some years later, pastored by a member of our motorcycle club, David Stratton. We stayed very active in this church – until we chose to move to New Mexico in 2015 to be closer to our daughter.

In New Mexico, it didn't take us long to settle on High Desert United Methodist Church and once again become active members, serving as bus driver, assisting in the food pantry, serving at Community of Hope and as Trustee. We joined the church on a Sunday that Pastor Will happened to be officiating and haven't looked back since.

We have seen many leaders in this church – starting with Pastor DG Hollums, but until we were fortunate enough to have Reuben and Judy Thomas directing our spiritual life, we never truly felt at home with our church family. We look forward to many years of fellowship and service to the church and this community.

Mike Fawcett

GETTING TO KNOW

YOU (by Dottie Hester)

Steve and Gloria moved to Rio Rancho 2 1/2 years ago from Santa Fe where they both were raised. They joined HDUMC about the same time having known Pastor Reuben and Judy at their church in Santa Fe. The Lamoreuxs have a son who lives in the area and a daughter in Billings, MT with their three grandchildren. Gloria and Steve were both bankers for 18 years after which they worked in the school system, Gloria as a school secretary and Steve worked with social needs students. They both enjoy working in their yard as well as reading for Gloria and stream fishing for Steve. We surely are glad to have them as members of our church family.



High Desert United Methodist Church

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We're on the Web!

www.highdesertumc.org

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for December are:

Friday, December 4th at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 15th at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, December 17th at 1:00 p.m.

December Collection: Dry Seasoning (Packages)
