

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

December, 2022, Issue 12

One of our readings for our Wednesday Night Bible Study was from Acts 20:35 where Paul repeats a saying of Jesus: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” The *Message* paraphrases this verse this way: “You’re far happier giving than getting.” That’s good advice as we enter the Christmas season and also for living each day. Now I could focus on tithing, giving to the Church, but you will rarely hear me discuss tithing or even give a stewardship sermon. I firmly believe that a church that is growing spiritually never has financial problems. We give generously because of our personal relationship and love for the Lord. I have found over the years that the more I give to the Lord, the more He blesses me, not only financially, but with an abundant life.

When we put Jesus and God first in our life as stated in Matthew 6:33 – “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well,” life goes better and is more enjoyable. God also promised in Malachi 3:10 – “Bring the whole tithe into the

storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” There was a farmer who was known for giving extensively to the Lord’s work. He explained it this way: “I keep shoveling into God’s bin, and God keeps shoveling into mine, and He has a bigger shovel!” Does God get our best or our leftovers?

When I think of Christmas, I think of giving, not receiving. After all, that’s what God did for us on the first Christmas. As stated in John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” God set the example for us by giving us of His best, the greatest gift ever – His Son. And because of that, we have His love, grace, forgiveness, salvation, and the promise of eternal life. Who could ask for more!

I believe that it was Winston Churchill who said: “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” Now there are many different ways to give besides financial support for the ministries of the church. One way is dedicating

time to the Lord by having a daily quiet time, participating in a weekly Bible study, regularly attending worship services, and getting involved in one of the many mission/outreach projects of the church. Is God the priority in how you spend your time or only when it’s convenient?

To truly live life to the fullest, we need to develop an attitude of gratitude. Look for the best in every situation God puts you in and in each person that He sends your way. Smile and share kind words with everybody, and don’t forget to say thank you to those who help you at the grocery store, restaurants, and other places. Let’s be people who put their trust and lives in God’s hands, living each day for Him and giving our best in everything we do.

During this holiday season, let’s focus on others not ourselves. Put God first in your life. Look for ways to help others and make their holiday better. Remember – It is more blessed to give than receive. Don’t live to get, live to give! Merry Christmas!
Reuben

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



November Activity: BINGO.

Bingo Day was a big success. About 20 people attended. We had lots of fun meeting new people and “stealing” white elephant gifts from each other. Our rules stated that a white elephant gift could be stolen a total of two times. Several people approached me and stated that they had so much fun that we should do this again soon. Until next time, Ken Dewbre, Fellowship Committee Chairperson



SANTA’S POST OFFICE

The Church is our family and many of us like to share Christmas greetings with each other. In order to do this and to avoid the increased price of postage stamps, Santa’s Post Office will be open again this year in the Narthex. If you wish to participate, just drop your Christmas cards in the mailbox and the office volunteers with the assistance of the ushers will distribute them each Sunday morning during Advent prior to and after worship.



BOX CONGREGATION



If you stopped by the church on November 16th, you might have thought our congregation was made up of boxes rather than people. That was the day we had 50 boxes sitting on chairs in the sanctuary, as they were being filled with all the ingredients for Thanksgiving dinner. These boxes were later distributed to the clients of Haven House, the Sandoval County shelter for women and children affected by domestic violence. Thanks to your generosity, each

family received a turkey, pumpkin pie, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, green beans, corn, and rolls. Thank you for caring and sharing in such meaningful ways.

A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

On All Saints Sunday, November 6, we remembered and honored those of our fellowship who have gone home to be with the Lord over the past year. We lit candles for Wilmoth Chambliss, Bud Cochran, Gordon Forbes, Charles Kottenbrook, Glynda Lester, Joy Prentice, Mike Schramko, Norvin Schuman, Hugh Seifert, Frank Smith, Tommie Stephens, and our loved ones, friends and neighbors.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thanks to your continued support and generosity, we exceeded our goal 100 shoeboxes filled with toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. We took 127 boxes to Grace Outreach Church during the collection

week of November 21, 2022. Samaritan's Purse will distribute the boxes to children around the world. Special thanks to Patty Latter for her leadership in this ministry.



WESLEY COVENANT SERVICE

New Year's Day happens to be on Sunday this year. What better way to start a new year than by worshipping the Lord Almighty. And what better way to worship the Lord than the traditional Wesley Covenant Service. This service which was first used by John Wesley in 1755 has been revised over the years, but the focus of giving our best remains. Join us as we begin 2023 with a renewed commitment to the Lord.

Welcome to Our Newest Members

It is a joy to welcome our four newest members to our church family: Bonnie Chalfant, Frankie Combs, Harry Combs, and Sharon Johnson. May God bless you and may you feel welcomed, supported, and loved at your new church home.

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Invites you and your family to join us for

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

4 and 6 pm



We're located at
1201 Golf Course Road SE
Rio Rancho, NM

Visit our website: highdesertumc.org
for more information

Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Since Christmas is on Sunday this year, we will only have one service at 9 am. Come join us as we sing Christmas carols; we will take selections from the hymn book. So, if we have not sung your favorite carol during Advent, here's your chance! Of course, we will not sing "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer." We will have refreshments following the service and, for those who are willing, we will go to MorningStar to sing carols. Come join us before you go visit family and friends. Also invite a friend or neighbor.

Church Cookbooks Are Still Available!



Cost: \$10 each

Available to purchase each Sunday between the worship services, or in church office Wednesday mornings. These make great Christmas gifts.

Proceeds go to Missions projects.

Special thanks to Jan Herrington for her tireless work as Chairperson of this project.

More Opportunities to Give

If you just love to buy toys, here is your chance. Every year, St. Felix collects toys for local children in need. If you would like to support them, you may place your (new) toy donation (unwrapped) under the Christmas tree in our Narthex. We will take the toys to St. Felix.

Winter Clothing Collection: Each winter, we collect new socks, gloves, stocking caps and blankets for the homeless. If you wish to contribute, just place your donated items in the basket in the Narthex.

What is the Narthex anyway?

If you're somewhat new to the Methodist Church, you might be wondering what the Narthex is. It's just a church word for front lobby. The word has been used in Christian churches since the 1600's and originally referred to the western entrance to the sanctuary.

Women with Purpose

Thursday, December 1, 2022

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

You know how when we were kids we got great big stockings stuffed with goodies (no lumps of coal or willow switches) at Christmastime? Well, our next WWP meeting will be a little like that, only with wearable socks, not fancy stockings. Our mission for December is always something around serving the homeless—and that is why we will be stuffing socks again this year: one of the socks is rolled up and stuffed into the toe of the other sock. Then comes the Christmas delight part—fleece cap, flashlight, lip balm, comb, granola bar, and all the leftover Halloween candy we asked you to save. Lots and lots of sweets! Rev. Joann Landry, of the International Bible Institute, serves this zone of our poor population in Albuquerque. She will handle the distribution.

In tandem with this activity, we have been asked by Storehouse West to collect and donate bars of soap to be handed out to their food commodity clients. This is a sister community charity and we are delighted to be included in their Christmas outreach.

Note: Rev. Chris Davis from Gallup will be our guest speaker. She will be updating us on her work on the Navajo Reservation.

COME JOIN US!

December 2022

HIGH DESERT UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10 AM Women with Purpose 11 AM Fellowship Comm.	2 11 AM - 2:00 PM Food Pantry	3
4 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	5 10 AM Bible Study	6	7 Office Hours 9 AM-12 Noon 10:30 Bible St. 5:30 PM Bible St. & Choir	8	9	10
11 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	12 10 AM Bible Study 10 AM: FNMK Bagging	13 6 PM Ministry Team Meeting	14 Office Hours 9 AM - 12 Noon 5:30 PM Bible St. & Choir	15 1 PM Food Pantry	16	17
18 Ugly Sweater Day 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	19 10 AM Bible Study	20 9 AM Food Pantry	21 Office Hours 9 AM - 12 Noon 5:30 PM Choir Bible Study	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: 4:00 and 6:00 PM
25 Christmas Day 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM MS (Caroling at MorningStar)	26 10 AM Bible Study	27	28 Office Hours: 9 AM - 12 Noon 5:30 PM Choir Bible Study	29	30	31
		SS = Sunday School MS = MorningStar Worship FNMK = Feed New Mexico Kids				

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: Who was Jabez in the Old Testament?

ANSWER FOR NOVEMBER: (What is Ebenezer?)

Samuel took a stone and placed it between Mizpah and Shen as a memorial to the Lord's protection up to that time (including the recent domination over the Philistines). He called the place Ebenezer, 'Stone of Help'

UGLY SWEATER SUNDAY

Join us on Sunday December 18 and show your holiday spirit by breaking out your best or worst Christmas sweater. Here's your chance to wear that sweater someone gave you and you didn't know if you would ever use it! Let's have some Christmas fun!



Tamales, Anyone?

If you attended our church cookout in October, you may remember the delicious tamales that our friends from the Spanish Church brought. The Pastor's wife has agreed to make them for Christmas for those who would like to pre-order them. You may select either pork or chicken with red chile. The cost is \$18 per dozen and the deadline to order is December 11th. The tamales will be delivered to the church on December 18th at about 12:30 PM. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

DECEMBER SECOND MILE GIVING

Feed New Mexico Kids

Did you know that many students in Rio Rancho are homeless and even more go hungry, especially on the weekend? A hungry child is twice as likely to repeat a grade; three times as likely to be suspended; and a hungry teen is five times as likely to commit suicide.

To address this need, High Desert UMC through Women with Purpose (WWP) has been participating in and supporting Feed New Mexico Kids, a local nonprofit organization, by providing weekend food packs to children in our local community. Currently, WWP and other volunteers assemble over 480 food packs per month which are given to over 100 students in five local schools. Originally, it cost about \$7 for each food package, but with rising food prices this is going up.

During 2021, 2,305 bags of snacks were assembled and distributed. Each bag weighs approximately 2.8 pound; thus, a total of well over 3 tons of food was distributed to local students last year. And the demand continues to increase.

Our Second Mile Giving during December will go to the purchase of the food for these packs. You can support this worthwhile ministry by writing "Feed NM Kids" on the memo line of your check to the church. Thanks for making a difference in the lives of these children.

Bible Studies Available

SUNDAY 10 AM: Studying a LifeGuide Topical Bible Studies. We will begin a new book on December 11th. Led by Tony Smith.

MONDAY 10 AM: Francie Larsen leads a study on The Nativity Story, through December.

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: Our Wednesday morning class led by Judy Ballard is studying the book of Jude only on December 7th, and will take a break until January.

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.

Care Ministry

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

Lois Brister	2867 Cripple Creek Drive SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	892-7987
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 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq 87114	408-722-6482
Grover Donahoe	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	220-3839
Rod & Louise 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



Bill and Kay Boss	December 23, 1989
Glenn and Sue Hinchcliffe	December 23, 1967
Paul and Loretta Lewis	December 24, 1961



Sandie Fawcett	December 2
Randy Sever	December 3
Rose Meyer	December 10
Gloria Lamoreux	December 14
Glynda Samford	December 14
Rohan Gandham	December 15
Polly Van Lenten	December 16
Marlaine Gaylor	December 16
Lou Christen	December 17
Edna Billings	December 19
Pamela Lee	December 20
Jan Herrington	December 21
Joel Salisbury	December 22
Sue Hill	December 24
Sity Roach	December 29
Sara Hendricks	December 30
Linda Hatley	December 30
Clara Mohr	December 31

Words that should end with 'Amen':

There can be no shadows without light.

High Desert United Methodist Church

1201 Golf Course Road
P.O. Box 45378
Rio Rancho, NM 87174

Office Hours: Wednesday 9 AM - Noon

Phone: 505-891-4206

Email: highdesertumc@outlook.com

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

December, 2022 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for December are:

Friday, December 2 at 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, December 15 at 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 20 at 9:00 a.m.

December Collection: Seasoning Packets

Contact Mike Fawcett at (715)456-3044

for more information.
