

*“Changing One Life at a Time”*

## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### *REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS*

February 2020,  
Issue 2

Over a year ago, we were approached by representatives of the Felician Sisters and Catholic Charities about the possibility of relocating to the convent next door as part of a community outreach project. At that time, it appeared that God was opening a door of opportunity for us to expand our outreach ministry to the local community. But as we all know now after months of negotiations and planning, Catholic Charities slammed that door shut when they sold the convent.

However, one thing that I have learned over my years of ministry and walking with the Lord is that when one door shuts, God opens another one. The day after I announced that the move to the convent was off Rev. Ron Komatz called me and said that he had found the perfect church for us. Led by John Samford, Lay Leader, Earl Hester, Trustees Chair, and Gordon Golsan, Finance Chair, we began to investigate this new open door. On December 22, 2019, the Church Conference unanimously gave the Trustees the authority to negotiate a lease with the owner of the property at 1201 Golf Course Road. On December 31, 2019, Earl signed a five year

lease that would begin on February 1, 2020.

It's been a long process, but here we stand at an open door. In His letter to the Church at Philadelphia in the third chapter of Revelation, verses 7-8, Jesus states: "These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut." I call this the Door of Opportunity. While these words were originally addressed to the Church at Philadelphia, I believe that they also apply to all of God's churches. Throughout history God has continued to open doors so that His kingdom may be built here on earth. Now He is opening a new door for High Desert UMC.

Not only does our new location provide a permanent sanctuary and additional space, but it also increases our visibility which hopefully will result in more visitors and increased attendance in worship. Our mission field has been expanded and

hopefully we will be able to reach out and share the Good News and God's love with our new neighbors. With this new opportunity comes some expectations on our part. While High Desert is a very welcoming congregation, we must not rest on our laurels, but increase our emphasis on hospitality. Please greet each visitor with a smile and a warm handshake. When you see a visitor, or someone you don't know, go up and introduce yourself. Every visitor should be greeted at least three times before they take their seat. Let's make everybody who comes into our new sanctuary feel right at home.

With that said, I hope that you will be patient as we make this transition. There will be changes and new procedures, so bear with us as we settle into our new home. God has opened a new door for us and 2020 will be an exciting year as we serve the Lord. God Bless.

*Reuben*





**Women With Purpose will meet February 5<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:00 pm at the church  
and February 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at Wanda Golsan's**

WWP will once again partner with Joanne Landry's International Bible Institute. This vital outreach (located in one of Albuquerque's poorer neighborhoods) regularly provides food for the hungry, as well as addresses other immediate needs of its 'international' clientele.

One minor deviation from our norm—WWP's gifting this month will be 'non-gender,' that is, for both men and women. We will be filling 32 pairs of white crew socks with personal items, (chap stick, foot powder, granola bar) for Joanne Landry to hand out as she determines the need. Contact Wanda Golsan at 796-4929.

## *BIBLE QUIZ*

**Which book in the Bible does not mention God?**

**Answer on page 9**

## **MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE SERIES - SHARED BY JENNY KOTTENBROOK**

### **23 Psalm**

Everyone should know Psalm 23 by heart. I know I do. This is a picture of a person from the beginning to the end of his Christian walk with God. The Lord is my Shepherd. That is what Jesus became in my life when I became a Christian. The middle part of the Psalm talks how God is with us throughout our life even in the darkest of times. He anoints our head with oil which means His Spirit is in us and upon us and His goodness and mercy follows us all the days of our lives. The last verse describes the end of our life on earth; "And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever!"

*Jenny*

**The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want.**

**He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters,  
He restores my soul.**

**He guides me in paths of righteousness for his namesake,**

**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and staff they comfort me.**

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies**

**You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.**

**Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,**

**And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**



**Our First “Angel Among Us” goes out to Arlene Westgaard,**

pianist for HDUMC! She has been the creator and developer of “God’s Word in Song” that we enjoy not only at church every Sunday, but also at other special events. Arlene is originally from New York, but came our way via Grants, NM where she taught school for 29 years. She began playing the piano when she was 7 years old. Arlene came to visit our church one day and noticed the sign for a pianist on the bulletin board and applied. It was the last day for applicants! God is really amazing. We are so blessed to have her in our church.

***THANK YOU, ARLENE.***



**FROM THE EDITOR:**

Hope you all like the new additions to the Newsletter! I would love your feedback and ideas especially book reviews and favorite scriptures"; so please send them to me. You can contact me at [generations4counseling@hotmail.com](mailto:generations4counseling@hotmail.com) or phone 505-331-8894. As you can see above, we now have "Angels Among Us". We have so many at HDUMC, it is so hard to choose, but choose I will, monthly. Please let me know of members who you feel are angels. Make sure you read the newsletter to find out who is next.

*Francie Larsen*



**Next Deadline: February 25th**

# FEBRUARY 2020



## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**Christmas Eve Service at HDUMC**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS		Bible Study 1:30 PM WWP 6 PM at Church	Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM WWP 10 AM at Wanda Golsan		Food Pantry 11AM to 2PM	
9 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	10	11 Bible Study 1:30 PM Team Ministry 6 PM	12 Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM	13	14	15
16 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	17	18 Food Pantry 9 to Noon Bible Study 1:30 PM	19 Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM	20 Food Pantry I to 4 PM	21	22
23 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	24	25 Bible Study 1:30 PM Articles due to Francie for Newsletter	26 Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM	27	28	29

# FEED NEW MEXICO KIDS

Fun, Friendship & Making a Difference



## Story of St. Valentine

"The story of Valentine's Day begins in the third century with an oppressive Roman emperor and a humble Christian Martyr. The emperor was Claudius II. The Christian was Valentinus. Claudius had ordered all Romans to worship twelve gods and had made it a crime punishable by death to associate with Christians. But Valentinus was dedicated to the ideals of Christ; not even the threat of death could keep him from practicing his beliefs. He was arrested and imprisoned. During the last weeks of Valentinus's life a remarkable thing happened. Seeing that he was a man of learning, the jailer asked whether his daughter, Julia, might be brought to Valentinus for lessons. She had been blind since birth. Julia was a pretty young girl with a quick mind. Valentinus read stories of Rome's history to her. He described the world of nature to her. He taught her arithmetic and told her about God. She saw the world through his eyes, trusted his wisdom, and found comfort in his quiet strength. "Valentinus, does God really hear our prayers?" Julia asked one day. "Yes, my child, He hears each one." "Do you know what I pray for every morning and every night? I pray that I might see. I want so much to see everything you've told me about!" "God does what is best for us if we will only believe in Him," Valentinus said.

"Oh, Valentinus, I do believe! I do!" She knelt and grasped his hand. They sat quietly together, each praying. Suddenly there was a brilliant light in the prison cell. Radiant, Julia screamed, "Valentinus, I can see! I can see!" "Praise be to God!" Valentinus exclaimed, and he knelt in prayer.

On the eve of his death Valentinus wrote a last note to Julia, urging her to stay close to God. He signed it, "From your Valentine." His sentence was carried out the next day, February 14, 270 A.D., near a gate that was later named Porta Valentini in his memory. He was buried at what is now the Church of Praxedes in Rome. It is said that Julia planted a pink-blossomed almond tree near his grave. Today, the almond tree remains a symbol of abiding love and friendship. On each February 14, Saint Valentine's Day, messages of affection, love, and devotion are exchanged around the world."

[www.olrl.org/lives/](http://www.olrl.org/lives/)

### **Weekly Bible Study: A study 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 Esther, the first of the historical books. **Wednesday eve Bible Study** has started an overview on the New Testament; the time will coincide with choir practice.

## Lay Care Ministry

<b>Lorra Garner</b>	Skies Health and Rehab, 9450 McMahon NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114	
<b>Norvin Schuman</b>	382 Nicklaus Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-0526
<b>Grover Donahoe</b>	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	220-3839
<b>Rod &amp; Louise Warpole</b>	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	994-9339
<b>Mae Washburn</b>	Revenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120	
<b>Phil Pittman</b>	1000 Riverview Dr SE, #242, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	301-7704
<b>Glen Nesbitt</b>	Advantage Asst Living, 1729 Wellspring Ave SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	
<b>Irma Peter</b>	3011 Southern Blvd., #3, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	951-897-2199
<b>Sheila Arce</b>	4910 Tramway Redge Dr NE #316, Albuquerque, NM 87111	
<b>Jeanne Buchley</b>	The Retreat, 4100 Jackie Rd SE, Rio Rancho NM 87124	
<b>Ione Harrand</b>	948 Tulip Rd. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	994-0741
<b>Barbara Gatzweiler</b>	6071 Rabbit Rd. NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144	994-1964
<b>Charlene Bullock</b>	1303 Sara Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	238-6141



<b>Dan &amp; Jeanne Buchly</b>	2/12/1989
<b>Ione Harrand</b>	2/14/1953
<b>Wanda &amp; Benny Giovengo</b>	2/14/1980
<b>Gordon &amp; Wanda Golsan</b>	2/17/1963



### Doublepuzzle 7

RELDE       
17 3 1 9 11

NOARM       
7 12 13 19

TSIIV       
4 21

KEME      
8 20 2

VEIF      
10 15 5 18

SETMI       
23 14 6

Unscramble the letters on the left to form words. Then take the letters from the numbered boxes and place them in the same numbered boxes at the bottom to form a Bible phrase. Some numbers are used more than once

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9

10 11 12 13

14 15 19 17

18 19 20 14 21 6 23

Copyright 2011 - biblewordgames.com

From the Editor:

*No answer sheet so we are all on our own!*

*Francie*



<b>9 AM Service</b>					
<b>Date</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>	<b>Altar Flowers</b>	<b>Refreshments</b>
<b>Feb. 2nd</b>	John & Glynda Samford	Bryce & Sara Hendricks	Randy Sever	Esplanade Ladies	Del & Francie Larsen
<b>Feb. 9th</b>	Ken & Wanda Schierling	Earl and Dottie Hester			
<b>Feb. 16th</b>	Gordon & Wanda Golsan	Ken & Sandy Dewbre		Del & Francie Larsen	
<b>Feb. 23rd</b>	Dave & Sue Duranty	Mike & Sandie Fawcett		Charlene Brandt	
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Week or Alternate</b>	Del & Francie Larsen	Lael Wellington & Trixie MacLay			
		<b>11 AM Service</b>			
<b>Feb. 2nd</b>	Nancy Perry-Sebrell	Bonnie Korngiebel Karen Malinka	Ron Komatz		
<b>Feb. 9th</b>	Holly Benson	Rose Meyer Janet Greger	Lisa Isenberger		
<b>Feb. 16th</b>	Gloria Graham	Lisa Isenberger Nancy Perry-Sebrell	Janet Greger		
<b>Feb. 23rd</b>	Janet	Ron Komatz Karen Malinka	Bonnie Korngiebel		

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

**9:00 a.m. Service**

**Greeters:** Dave and Sue Duranty, Emily Sue Chambers, Wanda Giovengo, Francie Larsen, Mike & Sandie Fawcett

**Ushers:** Judy Ballard, Earl & Dottie Hester, Emily Sue Chambers, Wanda Giovengo, Glenda Barber

**Liturgists:** Jane Butel, Skip Chambers, Gordon Golsan, Bryce Hendricks

**11:00 a.m. Service**

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

**Ushers:** Ron Komatz, Lisa Isenberger, Chuck Schimke, Janet Greger, Karen Malinka, Rose Meyer, Nancy Perry-Sebrell, Bonnie Korngiebel

**Liturgists:** John Kottenbrook, Ron Komatz, Lisa Isenberger, Bonnie Korngiebel, Chuck Schimke

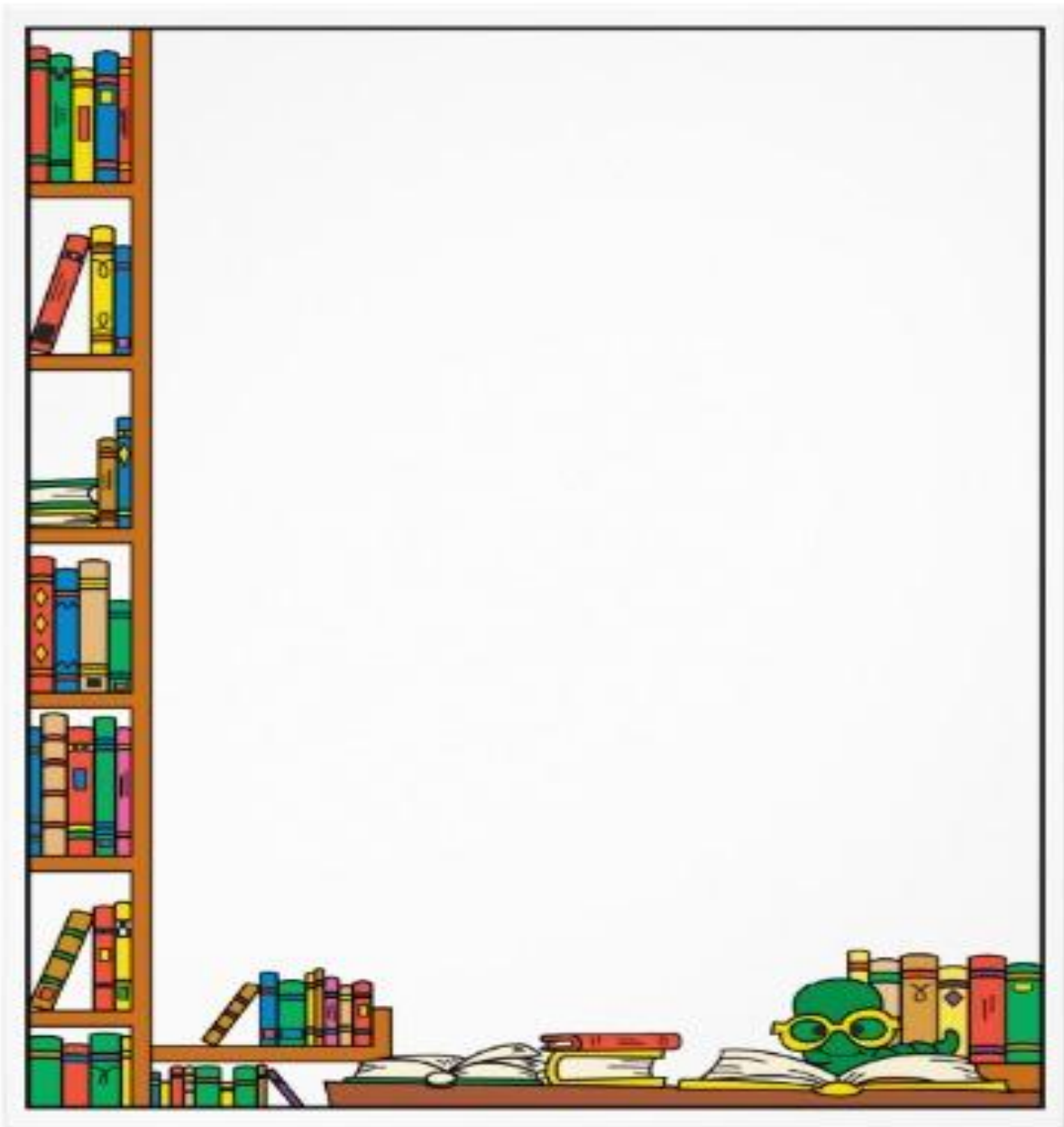
**Altar Flowers:** Judy Ballard, Jenny Kottenbrook, Bonnie Korngiebel, Gordon & Wanda Golsan

**Refreshments:** Dave & Sue Duranty, Pamela Lee

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

Church E-Mail Addresses:

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



## ***WHAT'S GOIN' ON***

**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.

**Nov. 2019 collection for Meadowlark Methodist Food Pantry:** Items are targeted for you to purchase to help replenish the shelves. Featured this month is: **pasta, spaghetti**. 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 two schools in Rio Rancho. There is a large jar for your labels 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.

**Bible Quiz Answer: The book of Esther and the Bible  
Study on Tuesdays is now studying the book of Esther.**

**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. November 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.

---

## High Desert United Methodist Church

4200 Meadowlark Lane SE Ste 6  
Rio Rancho, NM 87124  
Office Hours: Tues-Fri  
9AM-Noon & 1-3 PM  
Phone: 505-891-4206;  
Fax: 505-891- 4460  
Email:  
highdesertumc@cableone.net

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

"Like" us on Facebook at:

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

Or

Follow us on Twitter at:

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

---

## MEADOWLARK METHODIST CHURCH PANTRY

We take an offering on the first Sunday of every month to benefit the Food Pantry. On Sunday, February 2nd a basket will be on the back table to receive your offering. Featured collection for February is: **Pasta Spaghetti**

**Distribution dates for February are:**

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

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

**Thursday, Feb 20th at 1 p.m.**

**NOTICE: The Food Pantry is collecting plastic bags again!**