

"Changing One Life at a Time"

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

February 2021, Issue 2

Well, we are now in the second month of 2021 and our eleventh month of restriction, isolation and self-quarantining. I hope and pray that you are well and safe. Now many people make resolutions to improve their lifestyle at the beginning of a new year. The most often cited resolution is to get in better shape, exercise more and lose some weight, especially those quarantine 15 (or more) pounds that we put on as we have spent more time at home with the refrigerator. I know that Judy and I have been watching our diet and trying to walk at least five times a week. I also enjoy playing baseball or football with my grandsons each Sunday afternoon.

But just like we all should take better care of ourselves physically, we also need to take care of ourselves spiritually. Just like we have an exercise routine and diet plan, we also need a plan for our spiritual growth for 2021. This should include having a daily quiet time where we spend some time alone with God each and every day. The amount of time can vary; if you start with 15 minutes, you will soon realize that you want to spend more time with the Lord. Also, when you do it will depend on your schedule and when you

can find a time to be alone with God. For those who are morning people like me, early morning works best, while those who are night owls like my wife Judy, late at night works best. The key is to choose a place where you are not distracted by outside noises or people; in other words, don't do it in front of the television!

It is critical that we spend some time each day alone with the Lord in prayer and reading the Bible. As you study the life and ministry of Jesus in the Gospels, you see that Jesus was always in prayer with His Father. Mark 1:35 tells us: "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went to a solitary (quiet) place, where He prayed." If our Lord and Savior needed time alone with His Father to meet the demands and temptations of each day, how much more do we need to spend time alone with God in prayer?

Psalm 119:105 states: "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." God has given us an amazing instruction manual for life, the Bible. As you navigate the ups and downs of the coming year, let the Bible be

your constant roadmap. The Bible is most useful when it is open. There are several approaches that you could use such as reading through the Bible this year, studying certain books such as the Gospels or The Apostle Paul's letters, or using daily devotionals such as the *Upper Room*, *Daily Bread* or *Guideposts*. Someone once said that a Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone is not!

I know that we are still under restrictions as to the number of people who can safely meet, but if possible, I would encourage you to get involved in a weekly Bible study. Tony Smith has a great Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings between the 9 am and 11 am worship services in the big classroom. Judy Ballard is leading a study of Peter the Disciple on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am in the classroom. And our Wednesday Night Class which meets at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary is studying an overview of the New Testament.

It is my hope and prayer that 2021 will be a wonderful year for you and that each of us will grow closer to the Lord this year.

Reuben

WOMEN WITH PURPOSE

NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH AT 10 AM

Women With Purpose invites all women to a **'Baby Shower in a Bag'** event on Thursday, February 4th at 10:00 a.m., HDUMC sanctuary. Come help us fill a beautiful, roomy tapestry-type bag with all kinds of baby stuff for new mothers. WWP is pleased to once again respond to former state senator Candace Gould's Heart Gallery of New Mexico foundation. This outreach is designed to acknowledge young girls exiting the foster care system through 'aging out' who may be pregnant or already have an infant. These handy bags will hold disposable diapers, receiving blankets, newborn undershirts, lotion/shampoo, durable bath time books, rattles/toys, baby wipes, and anything else you could possibly think of for a new mom. Facing the world as a fresh 18 year old is daunting enough without the burden of already being a family. We have the ability and

JUST DOING OUR THING

Women With Purpose January Meeting

Left: Assembling cleaning items for the women of Crossroads for Women. Right: Lisa Eisenberger loading buckets.



God's Valentine to You

By Leon Fontaine

And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:17 (NKJV)

Valentine's Day is all about love, and today I want to remind you that God loves you.

Do you have to do anything to earn God's love? Most would answer, "No," but at the same time, we subconsciously try to do things to make God love us or bless us more. If we realize that we haven't prayed in a long while or we haven't done anything nice for anyone else, we can hesitate to approach God with our needs. We can think, "Well, I haven't done anything for Him lately. Why would He want to do anything for me?"

We have to remember that we serve a loving God, and He's our Father. What loving dad would look at his little baby with a dirty diaper and say, "Why should I change your diaper? You haven't done anything for me lately." And how crazy would it be if a dad said to his daughter, "I love you, sweetheart," and she responded, "Oh, you couldn't love me because I didn't pick up my toys, I didn't fix my bed and I yelled at my brother." Yet that's how we sometimes are with our Father God.

God is always ready and willing to pour His love and blessings out on you. Just think of what He said to Jesus in the above verse. Did God tell Jesus He was pleased with Him after He healed a blind man or raised someone from the dead? No! He said this to Jesus before His ministry had even begun!

This Valentine's Day remember that **God loves you not because of what you've done, but because you're His child, He's your heavenly dad and He made you!**

I want to thank the church for your generous donation for my Retirement gift. The plaque is beautiful, and I will cherish it. And I enjoyed the red roses so much! I will miss being at the office and seeing all you wonderful folks!
Jenny Kottenbrook



FOOD PANTRY – 2020 REVIEW

As we stand on the brink of a new and uncertain 2021, we can only hope and pray that we will see a safer and more secure future for our country. Much of the uncertainty comes from an overwhelming sense of fear and doubt for many people. The new administration has pledged to alleviate those fears by attempting to reunite our country. We can all do our part in supporting that goal.

We have seen and heard much of these same concerns from our clients at the Food Pantry relating to the spreading virus, loss of jobs, school closings as well as food shortages in our state for an increasing number of families.

Comparing 2019 to 2020 and the far-reaching effects of the pandemic, we saw a significant increase for supplemental food requests in all segments of the population that we report to the Road Runner Food Bank.

*The numbers for **Seniors** in 2020 showed an increase of more than 25%; **Adults** increased more than 20% and **Children** increased by more than 60% while we served almost 4700 individuals.*

We don't know what 2020 will bring, but when we are able to get everyone vaccinated and slow the spread of the virus, with the commitment of our "super-hero" volunteers; the HDUMC Food Pantry will stand ready to serve those in need for as long as it takes. God Bless America!!

Michael Fawcett, Co-Director

LENTEN SERMON SERIES		
During Lent this year, we will be discussing the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12.		
DATE	SCRIPTURE	SERMON TITLE
February 21	Matthew 5:1-12	Blessed Be
February 28	Matthew 5:4-5	Blessed Are Those
March 7	Matthew 5:6-7	A Satisfied Hunger and Thirst
March 14	Matthew 5:8	Blessed Are the Pure in Heart
March 21	Matthew 5:9-12	Blessed Are the Peacemakers

DESIDERATA

Go Placidly Amid The Noise & Haste

Remember What Peace There May Be In Silence.

As far as possible without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

*Speak your truth quietly & clearly; listen to others, even the dull & the ignorant,
they too have their story. Avoid loud & aggressive persons, they are vexatious to the
spirit. If you compare yourself to others, you may become vain or bitter,
for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.*

*Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career;
however humble, it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.*

*Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery.
But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals
and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection.*

*Neither be cynical about Love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment,
it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully
surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden
misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born
of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.*

*You are a child of the universe; no less than the trees and the stars,
you have a right to be here. Whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore;
be at Peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be.*

*Whatever your labors and aspirations;
in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul.*

*With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams,
it is still a beautiful world.*

Be Cheerful! Strive To Be Happy!

From the writings of Max Ehrmann

©2010 Desiderata Gallery TM



PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON DESIDERATA

by Warren Herrington

I have always been a fan of “Desiderata”, so I asked if I could share this with the members of HDUMC. To me it can be a mini road map for how to get through each day, and some people have it posted some place where they can be reminded of its meaning, I have shared a copy with many people who seemed to need a “pick-me-up”.

I came from a rather small town on I-70 at the western border of Indiana called Terre Haute (French for Land High). Terre Haute is the home of Max Ehrmann author of the poem Desiderata (1927), and later in the 70’s song of the same name. There is a statue of Max Ehrmann on the corner of 7th and Wabash in downtown Terre Haute, Indiana. Other than Larry Bird who is/was a famous basketball player from Terre Haute and played for the Boston Celtics, Max Ehrmann is the most famous person from my hometown. I spent 27 years in Terre Haute before I gained escape velocity and got on the aerospace trail. I have no statues or basketball fame, but I know of 2 people from Terre Haute that do, and now so do you!

DESIDERATA BACKGROUND HISTORY

The common myth is that the Desiderata poem was found in a Baltimore church in 1692 and is centuries old, of unknown origin. Desiderata was in fact written around 1920 (although some say as early as 1906), and was copyrighted in 1927, by lawyer Max Ehrmann (1872-1945) based in Terre Haute, Indiana. The Desiderata song myth began after Reverend Fredrick Kates reproduced the Desiderata poem in a collection of inspirational works for his congregation in 1959 on church notepaper, headed: “The Old St Paul’s Church, Baltimore, AD 1692” (the year the church was founded). Copies of the Desiderata page were circulated among friends, and the myth grew, accelerated particularly when a copy of the erroneously attributed Desiderata text was found at the bedside of deceased Democratic politician Adlai Stevenson in 1965. Since then, Desiderata is still being shared by many.



Do you order from Amazon?

Did you know that Amazon has donated \$190 million to charities through Amazon Smile, without any additional cost to their customers?

Did you know that when you order from Amazon, you can automatically generate donations to HDUMC, when you have selected HDUMC to be your charity?

- Same products, same prices, no cost to you
- Maximize your impact
- Support your favorite charity with every eligible AmazonSmile purchase from your phone or web browser.
- AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases to your favorite charity when you shop.

HDUMC recently began participating in the Amazon Smile program in which 0.5% of what you spend will be sent to HDUMC quarterly.

How do I sign up for Amazon Smile?

- 1) If you are not already an AmazonSmile member, [sign up](#) on your web browser. Simply select your favorite charity to start generating donations, at no cost to you.
- 2) Download or update to the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app on your phone. You can find it in the [App Store](#) for iOS or [Google Play](#) for Android.
- 3) Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (≡). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone. You can also use HDUMC's unique charity link to sign up:

Unique AmazonSmile link

. When customers click on your unique link, they skip this charity selection process. Instead, they're taken to smile.amazon.com and are automatically asked if they want to support High Desert United Methodist Church.

Your unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-5181819>

Just think! It is another fast and easy; a painless way to support the HDUMC!

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: Who was *Mathias* of the Old Testament? *Judy Ballard*

ANSWER FOR JANUARY:

Who was *Megiddo* of the Old and New Testament?

Megiddo was a city in Canaan and the scene of some significant battles (Judges 5: 19-21; 2 Kings 23: 29-30). King Solomon was responsible for fortifying that city (1 Kings 9:15). In the NT, it is considered as the possible site of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16)

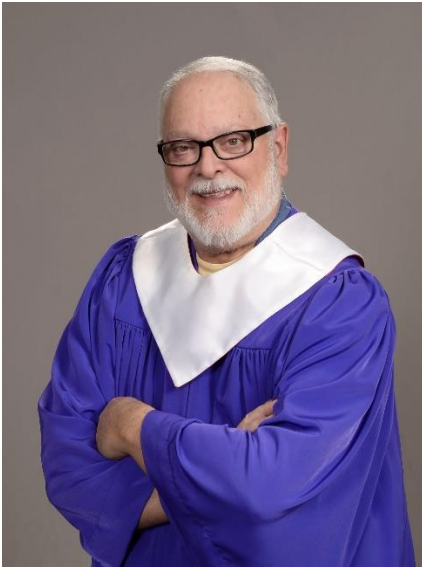
FEED NEW MEXICO KIDS

The pandemic has made it difficult to reach hungry children; however, creative school partners, modifying the packing procedure, the commitment of this church and continued giving by our church family and the donors who do not attend our church, children's needs continue to be met. All are to be commended.

We need to especially recognize the public-school personnel. Let me give one example. Between two very important meetings, Angel Brown, the counselor at Vista Grande Elementary dropped by our church to pick up over eighty week-end food packs. Women With Purpose was meeting at this same time. Angel spoke to our women and her enthusiasm, energy and commitment to children was evident. She also gave examples of how much children look forward to this food and how appreciative they are. Her positive energy motivated us to do more. We are so proud of our partnering counselors. Thank you, Angel! By the way, Angel is the granddaughter in-law of Francie and Del Larsen.



Picture of grandparents helping Angel load Feed New Mexico week-end bags of food into her car.



Our “Angel Among Us” this month goes out to Frank Rottolo!

“I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.”

- Psalm 104:33

A huge part of a church service is the singing and music. Just like we can praise God with words, our singing is a sweet sound to him. What would we do without Frank? Frank was born in New York, but grew up in Tucson, Arizona. His career was teaching music; and before retiring he was the Music and Band Instructor for Laguna Pueblo. Before COVID Frank developed and managed our choir. A wonderful choir for a church our size. And what would we do without his wonderful solo voice. **THANK YOU, Frank for all you do!**



UPDATE FROM THE EDITOR:

Happy Valentines Day! Hope you enjoy the new puzzle!

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

Francie Larsen

BIBLE STUDIES ANYONE??

Sundays, 10 AM, Studying the Gospel of John, Led by Tony Smith

Mondays, 10 AM, “A Bible Study of Galatians” (Joyce Meyer Videos).

Led by Francie Larsen

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM, “The Disciple Peter”, Led by Judy Ballard

Wednesdays, 5:30 PM, Discussing I Corinthians, Led by Pastor Reuben

ALL HELD AT THE CHURCH

February 2021



HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Bible Study 10 AM	2	3 Bible Study 10:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM	4 Women With Purpose 10:00 AM at the church	5 Food Pantry 11AM to 2PM	6
7 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	8 Bible Study 10 AM	9 Ministry Team Mtg 6 PM	10 Bible Study 10:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM	11	12	13
14 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS Valentine's Day	15 Bible Study 10 AM	16 Food Pantry 9 to Noon	17 Bible Study 10:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM	18 Food Pantry 1 to 4 PM	19	20
21 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS Comm of Hope	22 Bible Study 10 AM	23	24 Bible Study 10:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM	25	26	27
28 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS						



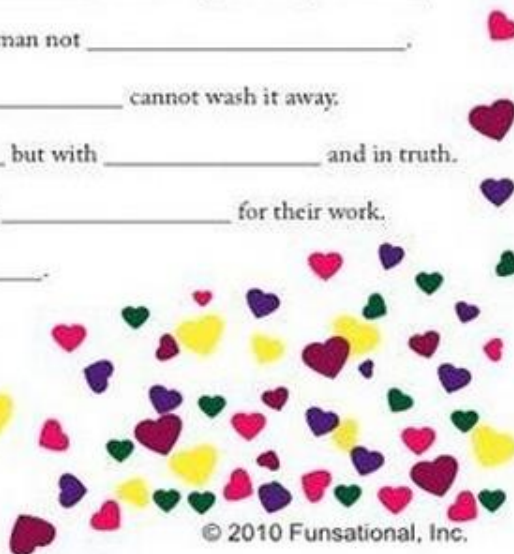
All About Love **Bible Verse Race**

Fill in the blanks of each Bible verse using the words provided.

Celebrate Love!

his	fails	meal	joined	quench	rivers
tongue	wife	himself	love	better	calf
rejoice	envy	boast	hope	favor	fountain
binds	actions	strands	separate	first	greatest
return	virtues	mine	noble	rubies	good

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not _____, it does not _____, it is not proud.
May your _____ be blessed, and may you _____ in the wife of your youth.
And now these three remain: faith, _____ and love. But the _____ of these is love.
He who finds a wife finds what is _____ and receives _____ from the LORD.
Better a _____ of vegetables where there is love than a fattened _____ with hatred.
A wife of _____ character who can find? She is worth far more than _____.
And over all these _____ put on love, which _____ them all together in perfect unity.
Therefore what God has _____ together, let man not _____.
Many waters cannot _____ love; _____ cannot wash it away.
Dear children, let us not love with words or _____ but with _____ and in truth.
Two are _____ than one, because they have a good _____ for their work.
He who loves his _____ loves _____.
We _____ because he _____ loved us.
Love never _____.
My lover is _____, and I am _____.
A cord of three _____ is not quickly broken.



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	C/O 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	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	994-9339
Dodie Rossman	3331 Esplanade Circle SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-0651



Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Earlene Price	2/3
Phyllis Thunborg	2/6
Lisa Isenberger	2/13
Janet Greger	2/18
Katie Fitzgerald	2/20
Jane Ferguson	2/23
Charlene Brandt	2/23
Wilson MacLay	2/26

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday! Happy birthday!



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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

by Rey Schuman

Have Yourself a Happy New Year

Peace and Joy to you and yours so dear!

May God bless each shot of vaccine.

Hope it finally kills Covid-19!

HOW I GOT TO HDUMC . . .

Francie and I have a second marriage and with that years of different churches. We were married in my Methodist church in Omaha, Nebraska, and later moved around to different churches, including Christian, Baptist and back to Methodist. We actually both were Catholics in the past. When we moved to Albuquerque near Juan Tabo to be close to our daughter, we started going to St. Stephen's Methodist church; and there we met Pastor Reuben. Our first day there Reuben was preaching, and it sure reminded us of our southern roots. We were impressed how he could remember everyone's names and enjoyed his sermons, and football stats are great too. We continued there even after Reuben left for Socorro.

We moved to Rio Rancho after Francie retired and started searching for a new church. It seemed to be so hard for us. We really needed a "good fit." One day we received a call from a good friend, Gary Cowles who was attending St. Stephen's telling us that Reuben would be moving to a church in Rio Rancho and that was all we needed to hear.

Our first time at High Desert we were amazed at the friendliness given to us and Reuben remembered us of course. There is something simple but special about HDUMC. It is hard to point out, but maybe we don't need to. Just enjoy it.

Del Larsen

(Note from the Editor: I did interview him)

GETTING TO KNOW

YOU (by Dottie Hester)

Jeff and Elaine Pratt have made New Mexico their home for the past 28 years having moved here from New York. They both grew up in New York and met at IBM where they both worked. Jeff's job at Intel brought them here 28 years ago. Elaine teaches 3rd grade at Cross of Hope Elementary and is fortunate to be able to teach at the school during the pandemic. The Pratts came to HDUMC in 2006 transferring from Rio Rancho UMC. Jeff is chairman of the SPRC and has been a member of Trustees over the years. He is also chairman of the Bus and Gifts Committees. Jeff and Elaine own two Siberian Husky dogs and an Alaskan Malamute which they got at the animal shelter two days before the shelter was going to put him down. They both enjoy traveling in the U.S. and Europe and look forward to more travels when Covid 19 has been taken care of.



High Desert United Methodist Church

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We're on the Web!

www.highdesertumc.org

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for February are:

Friday, February 5th at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, February 16th at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, February 18th at 1:00 p.m.

February Collection: Pasta, Spaghetti