

"Changing One Life at a Time"

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

February 2022, Issue 2

So how is your prayer life? Is it strong? Is it a regular part of your daily routine or do you pray only when you have a problem or crisis? Do you follow the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and have a daily quiet time alone with your Heavenly Father? Mark 1:35 tells us: "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed." Jesus was able to deal with all the demands and problems of life because He had carved out time each day in His busy schedule to be alone with God in prayer, and to have His batteries recharged, so to speak.

It is in the "alone times" with God that we can reflect on all that is happening in our lives. It is in these "alone times" with God that we allow God to help us sort out the priorities of our daily life. If we are to properly deal with the demands and pressures in our lives then we must spend time alone with God. It is in our quiet time of prayer, before the alarm clock goes off, the radio blasts, and the phone starts ringing, that we can get our daily marching orders from God.

When we start each day with prayer, we can withstand its

demands and problems, because our spiritual batteries have been recharged. The following sayings may help to clarify this:

1. A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
2. He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.
3. The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor.
4. The measure of any Christian is their prayer life.
5. Finally, life is fragile, handle with prayer!

There is no limit to the power of prayer; we have all seen this in our lives and in the church. James 5:16 states: "The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." The Jews had a saying that he who prays surrounds his house with a wall stronger than iron. To them, prayer was nothing short of tapping into the power of God; it was a channel through which the strength and grace of God were brought to bear on the problems of life. For the Christian, praying should be like breathing. Taking our praises and concerns to God should be second nature to us. Prayer should always be our first choice, not our last resort.

Prayer is at the heart of religion. For in prayer, we stop talking

about religion and enter into a personal, one-on-one relationship with God. Prayer, in its highest form, is communion and encounter with God. When we pray, we sense the very presence of God in our lives. Through prayer God meets us where we are and summons us to a new life, offering us the opportunities to become the person that He created us to be.

It is my hope and prayer that each one of us will strive to improve our prayer lives and spend more time with the Lord each day. I would encourage you to pray for others, our church and country, and get involve in our prayer chain. In addition, as I noted in my sermon on January 30, I also encourage you, as you are able, to establish a Neighborhood Prayer Walk with friends and neighbors. As you traverse your neighborhood streets, let the Spirit guide your prayers and thoughts for the safety, health and spiritual well-being for the homes you pass. Not only will you be "loving your neighbor," but you will also be getting the exercise that we all need to stay physically healthy. During this year, let's be Prayer Warriors for the Lord. God Bless.

Reuben

WOMEN WITH PURPOSE

Women With Purpose – Thursday, Feb. 3, 2022, 10:00 a.m. HDUMC sanctuary

Our project this month once again matches Women With Purpose with A Peaceful Habitation. APH is a Christian organization that addresses the needs of women leaving incarceration to rejoin families and communities. Our hands-on task this time is stuffing individual backpacks with needed toiletries and perhaps something frivolous just for the heck of it. Many women leave prison with all their worldly goods jammed into a plastic trash bag. We hope to offer them a bit of dignity upon their re-entry by giving them these personal backpacks.

APH's goals are to equip, empower, and encourage (without enabling) women on parole through a variety of life-skills workshops, all underwritten with Christian principles. We are pleased to give them a hand up in this effort.

Come join us!

JUST DOING OUR THING

Women With Purpose meeting Dec 2. A record number of ladies (37) filled 75 pair of socks for the Rev. Joanne Landry's work at Interfaith Bible Center. Rita Riddle and Judy Samson manned the "cookie table".



Feed New Mexico Kids team at work! 240 packs done and ready to get to kiddos. Newcomers Dirk and Marion Sanderson have been hired 😊

Did You Know?

The famous Gallup conducted their yearly poll, and [in December 2020 they revealed](#) that American citizens' reporting of their own mental health was at an all-time low. There's been a sharp increase in anxiety and depression. In every group. Except one. The only group of people that reported a positive increase in their mental health were those that attended regular religious gatherings.



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

The Big Professional Football Game, the Super Bowl, this year is on Sunday February 13th. Over the past few years, many churches have held a Souper Bowl Sunday on the same day as an opportunity to collect food for their local food pantries. So, on Sunday February 13, bring a can of soup for the High Desert Methodist Food Pantry. Think of the difference we can make if each person brought at least one can! You may put your donation in the Narthex. Also wear the colors of your favorite college or pro football team. The sermon for that Sunday is entitled "Religion and Football."

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

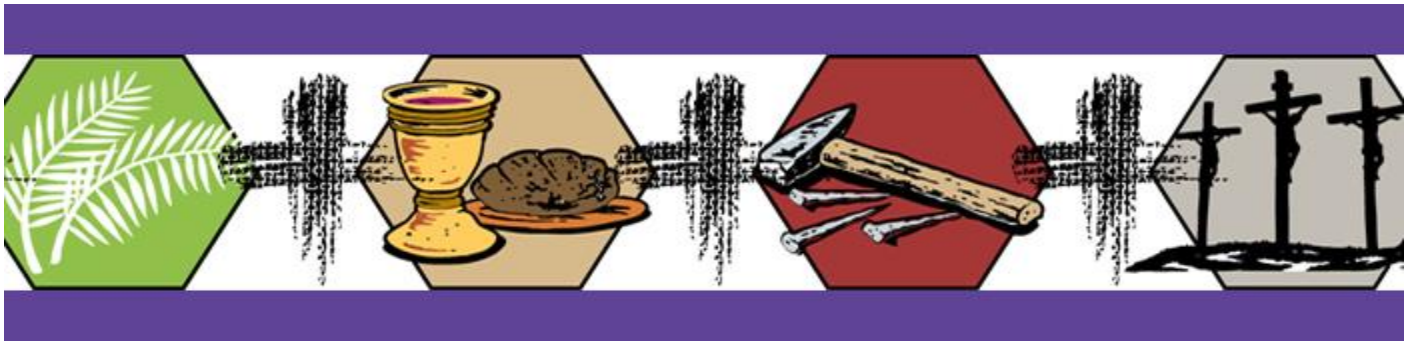
A Fellowship Committee has been established to plan and coordinate social activities for High Desert UMC. Our goal is to have at least one outing per month. These activities will include, but are not limited to, dinners, movies, baseball outings, day trips, etc. Information about the activities and how to sign up will be distributed by the newsletter, website, bulletin and weekly emails. Thanks to Skip Chambers, Ken Dewbre, Judy Ballard, Wanda Giovengo and Harold Sampson for volunteering to serve on this committee.

Keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming events!

CHRISTMAS AT HDUMC

“It was a full house”





LENTEN SERMON SERIES

24 HOURS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Jesus is believed to have died at the age of 33. The Gospel writers devoted most of their writing to the last three years of His life; with their primary interest on one particular day – the day He was crucified. They believed this 24-hour period changed the world, and each Gospel moves towards that day.

Beginning Thursday evening after sunset and lasting through Friday, Jesus would eat the Last Supper with His disciples; pray in the Garden of Gethsemane; be betrayed and deserted by His friends; be convicted of blasphemy by the religious authorities; be tried and sentenced for insurrection by Pontius Pilate; be tortured by Roman soldiers; and undergo crucifixion, death, and burial. During Lent this year, we will explore the following topics using Adam Hamilton's book *24 Hours That Changed the World*:

March 6 - The Last Supper

March 13 -The Garden of Gethsemane

March 20 - Condemned by the Righteous

March 27 - Jesus, Barabbas, and Pilate

April 3 - The Torture and Humiliation of the King

April 10 Palm Sunday - The Crucifixion

April 17 Easter – Do You Hear Him Calling Your Name?

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: To whom did Jesus utter the words of John 3:16 and why is that significant? *Judy Ballard*

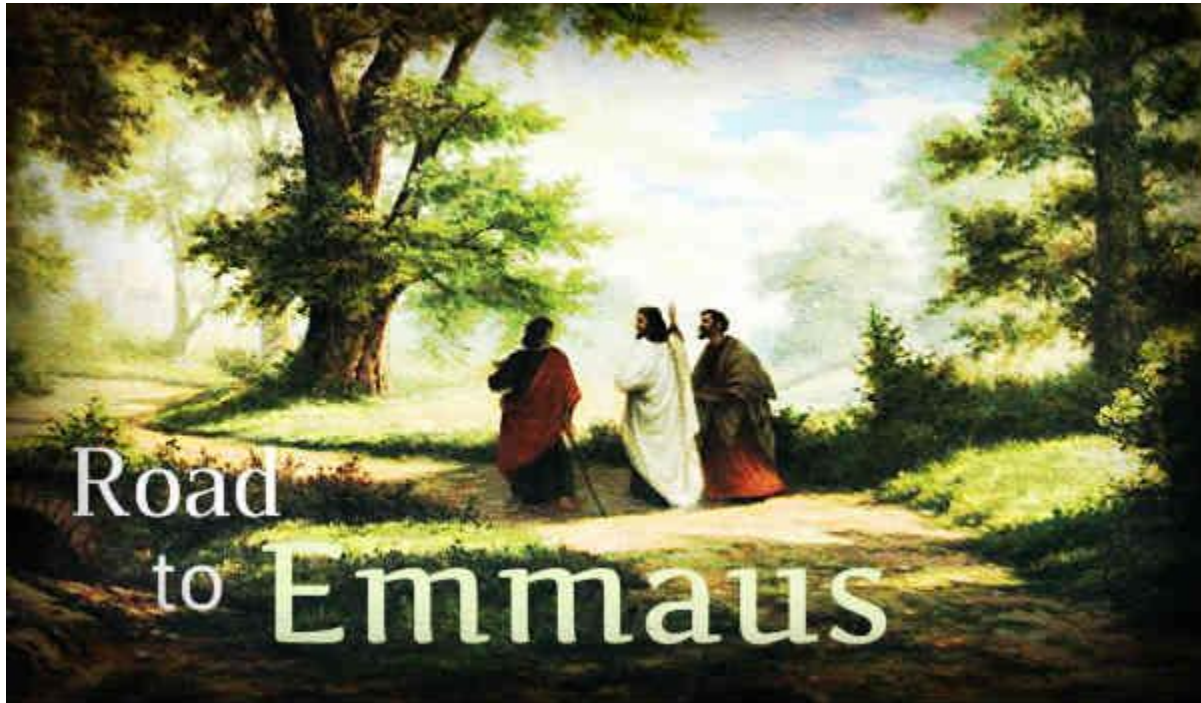
ANSWER FOR JANUARY: Who is Barabbas in the New Testament?

At an annual feast, it was customary for the governor to release a prisoner and pardon his crime according to the wishes of the people. Barabbas was a convicted murderer, yet the people demanded the release of the notorious prisoner instead of Jesus who was called the Christ. Jesus, who was innocent took the place of a despicable man who was not innocent.

SPECIAL THANKS TO MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Our Monday Bible Study Group, Gary Cowles, Dottie Hester, Usa Van Doren, Sue Hill, Arlene Westgaard, Val Forbes, Dan and Robin Foley, Lael Wellington, Sheila Smith, Steve and Gloria Lamoreux, Francie Larsen our Bible study leader, have been filling and delivering the Church Thank You Baskets to our First Responders, Service Men Recruiting officers, all three hospitals, and four assisted living homes. February baskets will be delivered to our outstanding public-school teachers at two schools. *Gloria Lamoreux, Chairperson*





The Men's Walk to Emmaus - August 4-7, 2022
The Women's Walk to Emmaus - September 8-11, 2022
Inlow Retreat Center (in the Monzano Mountains)

“Walk to Emmaus” is based on the scripture Luke 24:13-35 which tells of the men’s journey on the road to Emmaus and sharing their hearts’ deepest concern about the death of Jesus. They encounter Christ, share a meal and recognize our risen Lord; rushing back to Jerusalem to share the great news. **The Walk to Emmaus is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as he is revealed to you through other believers.** It is a 72-hour experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation. You will enjoy 3 busy days singing, learning, laughing, praying, worshipping and participating in small groups.

The theme of each talk is God’s Grace, how that grace comes alive in the Christian community, and how it expresses itself in the world. You’ll also discover how grace is real in your life, how you live a life of grace and bring grace to other.

You are invited to walk with Christ, in a new and different way, for the rest of your life!

We have numerous persons in our congregation that have gone a Walk to Emmaus. In fact, we have several working on these men and women’s walks!

If you are interested in learning more about The Walk to Emmaus Weekends or are interested in attending, please contact Linn Carlson (505-450-4152) or Pastor Reuben

UPDATE FROM THE EDITOR: [Special Congratulations to Jean Welch](#)

Jean was nominated as an Angel at Presbyterian Rust Medical Center as a longtime volunteer at the front desk of the hospital, even during the COVID-19 pandemic!

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

Francie Larsen

BIBLE STUDIES ANYONE??

Sunday 10 am – Studying the Book of Revelation

Monday 11 am – Studying *The Last Days of Jesus*

Wednesday 10:30 am – Studying Joshua

Wednesday 5:30 pm – Studying an overview of the Book of Revelation.

ALL HELD AT THE CHURCH

FEBRUARY SECOND MILE GIVING

KEEP THE BELL RINGING

Our Second Mile Giving for February will go to providing assistance to St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel, New Mexico. St. Joseph School is a Pre-K through 8 grade Catholic School that shares the gospel of hope through faith, academics, culture, environment and service. Since 1923 the bell tower at St. Joseph School has rung to begin and end the day, educating and spreading the gospel of hope to local children; Native Americans from the Pueblos of Laguna and Acoma and Hispanics from the local villages of Seboyeta, Cubero and San Fidel. Tuition is low and does not cover the cost of educating a child. Even at their low tuition rate many families have to rely on tuition assistance from various organizations. The difference is made up through grants and donations. Several times in the 98 years of their existence, St. Joseph has come close to closing its doors, but a higher power has kept it open even when it seemed impossible. If you would like to help “keep the bell ringing,” please mark “St. Joseph School” on the memo line of your check.

February 2022



HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

What is Community of Hope?

Community of Hope is a combined effort of many different churches volunteering to prepare and serve a meal to the homeless community in downtown Albuquerque. This meal is prepared for 60-80 persons at the Central First United Methodist Church.

Every Sunday a participating church prepares a meal and serves it to those in need. Along with the meal, anyone who wants can stay and listen to music, prayer and a short sermon.

Due to Covid it is not currently possible to sit and talk with the participants, but you are able to walk to each table and say hello if you want to.

On Sunday, January 23, 2022, it will be High Desert United Methodist Church's turn to prepare and serve the meal. For those of you who are not familiar with the process, this is how it works.

It all starts by choosing the menu, then a list of the necessary items is made. That is where you come in. A sign-up sheet is provided for you to choose which item you would like to purchase and bring to the church on the date specified. Some of you may think you are unable to help because you cannot get out to make a purchase; well, if this is the case you can make a donation by writing "Community of Hope" on your check or on a cash envelope. We also need a couple of people to go and help prepare and serve the meal. Due to Covid we usually only have two people, but if more want to sign up we can always use the help.

This month we will be serving Enchilada Casserole, beans and a fruit cup for the main meal. Also a to-go bag with juice, a granola bar, 2 hardboiled eggs, a banana and some chocolate will be provided.

Dave and I sincerely thank Steve and Gloria Lamoreux for helping to prepare and serve the meal and also to everyone who signs up to purchase the needed items or make a cash donation. This ministry would not be possible without your generous, loving and giving hearts.

Our opportunity to serve is scheduled every three months. If you would like more information, please contact us by email or give us a call. Our information can be found in the church directory.

With Sincere gratitude and Love,

Dave and Sue Duranty



Mesa View UMC once again conducted their "Reverse Advent Calendar" in which families place 1 food item in a large box or bag for each day of Advent. Thus 24 items were collected from each family that participated. Over 20 families participated, and their donations represented several hundreds of pounds of food, which will be put to good use by our food pantry."

Care Ministry

You are invited to call or write to our friends in Christ who are homebound or have health issues, and offer your love, support and encouragement. If you would like to be contacted by Pastor Reuben, please call the church office to make arrangements, 891-4206.

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	Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NW Albq. 87120	
Lorra Garner	Genesis, 9150 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq. 87114	408-722-6482
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	382-9706
Mary Lou Schimke	7927 Jamestown Road NW, Albq. 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	
Wilmoth Chambliss	10700 Fineland Dr. NW #334, ABQ, NM 87114	



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

Norma Skinner	2/1
Lucille Few	2/1
Earlene Price	2/1
Phyllis Thunborg	2/6
Mark Isenberger	2/10
Lisa Isenberger	2/13
Mary Mondragon	2/16
Karen Brown	2/17
Virginia Bennett	2/17
Lily Smothermon	2/18
Vic Holtgrewe	2/18
Dylan Smothermon	2/18
Janet Greger	2/18
Ted Michael Thunborg	2/19
Katie Fitzgerald	2/20
Jane Ferguson	2/23
Charlene Brandt	2/23
Wilson MacLay	2/26
Sue Duranty	2/28

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



Ione Harrand	2/14/1953
Wanda & Benny Giovengo	2/14/1980
Gordon & Wanda Golsan	2/17/1963
Dave & Sue Duranty	2/20/2016

Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

High Desert United Methodist Church

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PO Box 87174
Rio Rancho, NM 87124
Office Hours: Wednesdays
9AM-Noon
Phone: 505-891-4206;
Email:
highdesertumc@outlook.com

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

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for February are:

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

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

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

February Collection: Pasta, Spaghetti
