

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN’S RAMBLINGS

February, 2024, Issue 2

Each month we take up an offering for certain mission projects under Second Mile Giving. Have you ever wondered what Second Mile Giving is? Second Mile Giving is defined as “a phrase used to describe a deed of charity or kindness beyond the demands of duty.” In Matthew 5:41, Jesus says: “If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him the second mile.” At the time He said this, Roman soldiers could force a Jewish man to carry his equipment or other things for one mile. Jesus is telling us to go the extra mile, do more than is expected of you.

The “first mile” of giving is for the general operation and administration of the church. In other words, it goes to cover the administrative costs, rent, utilities, apportionments, and salaries for our three parttime employees (pianist, choir director and pastor). This is your tithe. The “second mile” goes beyond the general giving and provides support for various mission projects that fulfill Jesus’ command “to love your neighbor as yourself.”

The Second Mile Givings for 2024 is listed below:

January: Navajo Reservation Relief Fund which supports Pastor Chris Davis ministry in Gallup.

February: Hoodies for High School Students in need.

March: UMCOR (United Methodist Committie on Relief)

April: St. Joseph Mission School

May: Haven House, and Feed New Mexico Kids on Mother’s Day

June: Gift Cards for Teachers

July: Interfaith Bible Study and collection of school supplies.

August: Faith Comes by Hearing and 4Paws Pet Food Bank

September: Heifer International

October: Thanksgiving boxes for Haven House; Gift Cards for St. Joseph Students and Operation Christmas Child

November: Hams for Pantry Clients

December: Feed New Mexico Kids, and High Desert Methodist Pantry on Christmas Eve.

Of course, you can contribute to any of these mission projects at any time during the year. Due to your generosity, over \$70,000 was

contributed to Second Mile Giving last year and definitely made a difference for the Lord. I hope and pray that you will continue to support our Second Mile Giving in the coming year as we love our neighbors and witness for Jesus Christ.

God Bless. Reuben

Ash Wednesday is important because it marks the start of the Lenten period leading up to Easter. Lent is a period of preparation for Easter marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The forty day period represents Jesus’ time of temptation in the wilderness where He fasted and where the devil tempted Him.

The name “Ash Wednesday” is derived from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of believers in the shape of a cross. It takes place forty-six days before Easter.

This year Ash Wednesday is on February 14, Valentine’s Day. What better way to show your love for the Lord than being in worship. Join us at 5:30 pm as we prepare for Lent and Easter.

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Who were Ananias and Sapphira in the New Testament? Find the answer elsewhere in this issue.

Bible Studies Available

To help us grow spiritually in our personal relationship with Christ, High Desert UMC is offering the following Bible studies this fall. Please join one of the following studies in the classroom.

SUNDAY 10 AM: Studying The Gospel of Luke, Topical Bible Studies, Led by Tony Smith.

MONDAY 10 AM: Studying *Christian* by Andy Stanley, led by Francie Larsen.

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: The Book of Psalms, led by John Kottenbrook.

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: The entire Bible using “The Story” led by Reuben Thomas

AT FAIRWINDS: Tony Smith leads a Bible Study at Fairwinds each week.

ONLINE STUDIES: We send out a weekly email from Tony Smith discussing Isaiah. You can also participate in Tony’s online studies on Daniel, John & Revelation at coraleno@aol.com.

PODCASTS: “Footsteps” Available on the church website.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Our January Fellowship Outing was held at K’Lynn’s Southern and Cajun Restaurant in Rio Rancho. The Church Bus was available for those needing a ride. After lunch, we adjourned to the used book store nearby. Their proceeds go to our two local libraries. Everyone had a great time.

Watch for more exciting outings in the months to come!

Until next time, Ken Dewbre, Fellowship Committee Chairperson

Pet Food Distribution

Lisa Isenberger reports: “Set up at about 10:30 again and called it a day at 11:45a. It was chilly, but was able to help 28 families by distributing 60 small bags (286 lbs overall) of pet food.

Of those 28 families, 24 have dogs and 11 have cats so I ran out of dog food first again. I’ll try to adjust inventory for next time based on these numbers. Very grateful for the recent grant!”

Thanks, Lisa, for leading this important ministry.



Something to Think About

You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you - making you spill your coffee everywhere.



Why did you spill the coffee? "Well because someone bumped into me, duh!" Wrong answer. ✘

You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup. Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea. Whatever is inside the cup, is what will spill out ♡

Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (which it WILL happen), whatever is inside you will come out. It's easy to fake it, until you get rattled. Let's ask ourselves... "What's in my cup?" When life gets tough, what spills over?

Joy, gratefulness, peace and humility? ♡ Or anger, bitterness, harsh words & reactions? 😡 You choose. Today let's work towards filling our cups with gratitude, forgiveness, joy, words of affirmation, kindness, gentleness and love for others!

Check it out! Our church has a library.

It is only one bookcase in the coffee area, but it is there for you. There are Bibles, Bible study books, devotional books, self-help books and a few fictional books with positive messages. Have you read the Father Tim series by Jan Karon? Our church library has several of the books in the series.

Father Tim is an Episcopalian priest in a small mountain town in North Carolina. The zany escapades and colloquialisms of his parishioners will keep you in stitches! In later books, Father Tim may be a retired pastor but everywhere he travels, he takes on ministerial duties. He is continually reminded to trust God. *(Editor's Note: I've read all of the Father Tim books, and they are my absolute favorite easy-reads! T.)*



Judy

Check out is easy! On the clipboard in the bookcase, write the name of the book you select to read as well as your name and phone number. You are in charge of when the book is due back to the library. Some study books take more time! Joanna Jones



FEBRUARY SECOND MILE GIVING:

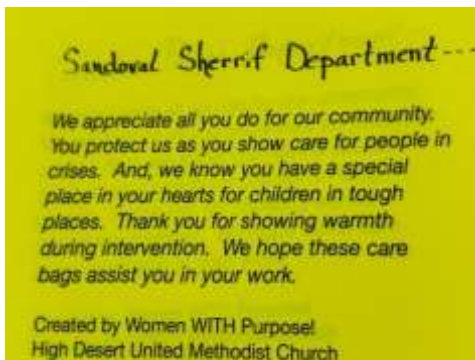
For February, our Second Mile Giving will go to support a new project, “Hoodies for High Schoolers.”

Many of the students in Sandoval County are in need of warm clothing, and teenagers love to wear sweatshirts with hoods – “hoodies.” To address this need, we will collect funds during the month of February to purchase hoodies from a wholesale web site we have identified. They will be distributed to students at the high schools in Sandoval County.

To support this ministry, please mark “Hoodies” on the memo line of your check to the church.

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE

Winter Clothing Collection. Each winter we collect gloves, stocking caps, blankets, sleeping bags, coats, sweaters, and new socks for the homeless. If you wish to contribute, you may place your donations in the barrel in the Narthex.



Women With Purpose (aka Women with Purses this month) Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 10 AM

Pictured at left is the letter we included with the Bears and Blankets care kits we sent to the Sheriff's Department last month.

Did you know WWP has so many ways to reach out into our community that we just can't serve them all in a year's time unless we double up? Yes, that's a fact. But this month we are stretching a bit farther than mere doubling up. This meeting the ladies will come together to assemble gently-used purses for *three* of our favorite sisterhoods: **Haven House**, A Sandoval County domestic abuse shelter, **Crossroads for Women**, Counseling/Training for resuming productive lives, and **A Peaceful Habitation**, addressing the needs of formerly incarcerated women re-entering society. We will jam-pack these handbags with necessities and goodies: lotion, shampoo, lip balm, brush and comb, pen, tissues, and hand sanitizer. Come join the special brand of comradery HDUMC Women With Purpose has to offer!

Mission Trip to St. Joseph's School



Some of the team with Elon University students

Over several days during January a hard-working team of guys from High Desert UMC spent many long hours constructing a ramp to the deck that was built last summer between two portable

classrooms at St. Joseph's Mission School in San Fidel, NM.

Team members are: Bruce Packard, Lynn Hood, Dann Meyer, Kent Hayes, Tony Smith, Drew Ammons and Reuben Thomas.



Part of the almost- finished deck and ramp



Lynn working with Elon students

The HDUMC team was assisted by a group of 14 students from Elon University in North Carolina, plus several men from the St. Joseph's community.

Soup-er Bowl Sunday

This year, the Big Professional Football Game, the Super Bowl, is on Sunday February 11. Over the past few years, many churches have held a Soup-er Bowl Sunday on the same day as an opportunity to collect food for their local food pantries. So, between now and Sunday February 11, you are invited to bring cans 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 place your donations in the bins in the Narthex.



Also on Sunday February 11, wear the colors of your favorite college or pro football team. Let's have a lot of fun!

Following the 11 am worship service, we're planning to have a "tailgate party." So, bring your favorite tailgate dish and join us on this national day of football as we worship together and share a special time of fellowship as a church family before going home to watch the game. Please indicate what dish you are bringing on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

February 2024

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

happy
Valentine's
day

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				10 AM Women with Purpose	11:00 AM Food Pantry	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	10 AM Bible Study,		Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible St. 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study		10 AM Emmaus Agape Gr.	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship 12:00 Tailgate lunch party	10 AM Bible Study 10 AM FNMK Bagging	6 Pm Ministry Team	Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service (No choir practice or evening Bible Study)	1:00 -4:00 PM Food Pantry		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	10 AM Bible Study	9:00 AM – 12:00 noon Food Pantry	Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study			
25	26	27	28	29		
9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	10 AM Bible Study		Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study			

Care Ministry

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

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
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
Polly Van Lenten	920 Riverview Dr. SE, Apt 280, Rio Rancho 87124	979-277-4852
Vi Ortega	517 Dartmouth Pl SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106	985-0953



Benny & Wanda Gioengo	Feb. 14
Gordon & Wanda Golsan	Feb. 17
Dave & Sue Duranty	Feb. 20

Norma Skinner	Feb. 1
Lucille Few	Feb. 1
Catherine Lujan	Feb. 3
Earlene Price	Feb. 3
Phyllis Thornburg	Feb. 6
Mark Isenberger	Feb. 10
Lisa Isenberger	Feb. 13
Wayne Walker	Feb. 14
Virginia Bennett	Feb. 17
Vic Holtgrewe	Feb. 18
Jane Ferguson	Feb. 23
Charlene Brandt	Feb. 23
Wilson Maclay	Feb. 26
Sue Duranty	Feb. 28

ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES

IN THE BIBLE:

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA WERE A
HUSBAND AND WIFE WHO SOLD THEIR
PROPERTY AS ORDERED AND PRESENTED
THE MONEY TO THE APOSTLES. BUT THEY
HELD SOME BACK AND LIED ABOUT IT.
THEY WERE STRUCK DEAD ON THE SPOT.

ACTS 5: 1

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

February, 2024 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for February, 2024 are:

Friday, February 2, at 11:00 AM

Thursday, February 15, at 1:00 PM

Tuesday, February 20, at 9:00 AM

February Collection: Spaghetti & Spaghetti Sauce

Containers are in the Narthex & Fellowship Hall for these donations.

Contact John Samford at (505) 870-0667

for more information.
