

*"Changing One Life at a Time"*

# HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS*

January 2022, Issue 1

Another year has come and gone. It seems just like yesterday that we said goodbye to 2020 and hello to 2021; now it's 2022. This is usually a time of reflections and anticipation, remembering what happened, what was – or wasn't – accomplished, during the past twelve months, and looking forward to a new year with a fresh start and high hopes in our individual and collective lives. As I reflect on 2021, I am extremely thankful for your continued support and patience as we have endured another year of the pandemic and the associated restrictions. Due to your adherence to the restrictions, we have been able to continue to meet in-person and focus on our outreach programs.

Francie Larsen is focusing this newsletter on the accomplishments of the past year. So let me highlight a few for you:

- Worship attendance grew from 75 per Sunday in January to over 100 in December.
- Our Rainy Day fund grew from \$80,600 in January to \$138,000.
- Twelve new members joined our fellowship in 2021.
- A benefit of pandemic has been implementation of online worship for the 9 am service.
- A new podcast entitled "Footsteps" has been introduced.
- Providing Bibles stories/crafts to children on our website under Bible Fund at Home.
- Weekly worship services at MorningStar were resumed - average of 7 in attendance.
- We celebrated Valentine's Day by sharing our wedding pictures.
- Held Easter Sunrise Service with 49 attending.
- Three individuals participated in Walk to Emmaus.
- Participated in Rio Rancho Funday on Sunday August 22.
- Baseball outing to the Isotopes game on September 17.
- Church Cookout held on October 6 with 92 in attendance.
- Eighty-eight shoeboxes were donated to Operation Christmas Child.
- Ministry Team served at the Asbury Café during State Fair on September 10.
- Second Mile Giving exceeded \$32,000; 13 percent of all our contributions.
- High Desert Methodist Food Pantry continues to provide food to local community.
- Purchased 5 heifers and 3 goats for Heifer International.
- Congregation given \$10 bills to pass on God's love, to do something good.
- Providing 265 food packages each month to students at 5 local schools under the Feed New Mexico Kids program.
- Provided gift baskets of appreciation to local hospitals, fire and police departments.
- Purchasing \$400 of food per month for the Interfaith Bible Center.
- Providing a meal to Community of Hope every three months.
- Provided \$2,067 to Gilbert Chavez Ministry to provide sack lunches to the homeless.
- Provided 25 Thanksgiving boxes to Haven House and Christmas hams to Pantry clients.
- Replaced the carpet in the hallway with tile, and expanded sound/video booth.

Unfortunately, there is not enough space to list all the accomplishments over the past year. Thank you for your continued support. As we prepare for 2022, remember the words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:9 – "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him." Happy New Year!

*Reuben*

## WOMEN WITH PURPOSE

### **Women With Purpose**

**January 6, 2022, HDUMC Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.**

Our first project of the new year is one that will quickly become a favorite— assembling Bear and Blanket bags for needy children in our communities. In this case ‘needy’ doesn’t necessarily mean ‘poverty’ but rather refers to a child whose life is upended for some reason, and he/she needs emotional comfort. Policemen and women carry these bags in their cruisers in case they encounter just such a situation. In addition to the cuddle value of a toy and a warm blanket we will include a bag of personal toiletries. We hope to provide 20 such bags to the Rio Rancho Police Department and 13 to the Corrales Police Department. We have invited representatives from both departments to attend our meeting and take delivery of the bags. Our goal is perhaps ambitious (more than 3X last time), but the loving hands of these Women With Purpose never disappoints or falls short. Ladies, plan now to attend this first meeting of the new year and see what all the hub-bub is about.

## OUR NEW BISHOP

Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe retired on December 31, 2021. On January 1, 2022, Bishop Robert Schnase became our new bishop. He also serves as bishop of the Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Prior to these current assignments, he served as the bishop of the Missouri Conference from 2004-2016. Bishop Schnase is the author of the following bestselling books: *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, *Five Practices of Fruitful Living*, *Practicing Extravagant Generosity*, *Seven Levers: Missional Strategies for Conferences*, and *Just Say Yes*. Before being elected as bishop, he served 15 years as senior pastor of First UMC in McAllen, Texas. He also served congregations in Harlingen, Texas and in Great Britain. Bishop Schnase is a graduate of the University of Texas in Austin and Perkins School of Theology. He enjoys birding, fishing, canoeing and traveling to Central America. He is married to Esther and they have two adult sons, Karl and Paul.

# "It Was a Very Good Year"











# January 2022



## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Wesley Covenant Svc 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	3 Bible Study 11 AM	4 Ministry Team Meeting 6 PM	5	6 Women With Purpose 10:00 AM at the church	7 Food Pantry 11AM to 2PM	8
9 Baptism of the Lord 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	10 Bible Study 11 AM	11	12 Bible Study 10 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	13	14	15
16 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	17 Bible Study 11 AM	18 Food Pantry 9 to Noon	19 Bible Study 10 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	20 Food Pantry 1 to 4 PM	21	22
23 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS Community of Hope	24 Bible Study 11 AM	25	26 Bible Study 10 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	27	28	29
30 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	31 Bible Study 11 AM					

## Do You Recycle?

You should, you know. We are, after all, charged with caring for our planet (okay, so I can't quote an apropos scripture, but I know God wants us to take care of our surroundings). Trash collection in all our immediate communities also includes Recycle pickup. So, do you recycle? If not, why not start now? There are two recycle items I am willing to take off your hands—aluminum cans and glass. Yes, GLASS. At present glass is not clumped together with other recyclable stuff, so it needs to be separated. And that's where I come in. Instead of disposing of glass items in your household trash, just bring them to church and I will tote them to the Rio Rancho dump. I will pick them up on Sundays or Wednesdays after Bible Study.

I collect aluminum cans for a neighborhood handyman who, together with 6 or 7 other men—ALL in different cities and different states—collect aluminum all year long. At the end of the year ALL the funds collected from the sale of the cans are combined and one single check is issued to St. Jude's charity. Anonymously. They take no credit for their efforts. I would like to help him out more than I already do. So, save me your aluminum cans! Let's start this year off right!

Speaking of recycle, what do you do with your plastic shopping bags now that the food pantry is not saving them? I've got a solution—and so does Target Stores. Just inside the entrance of the Target on 528 in Rio Rancho (on the left side) is a recycle station with 4 very large bins for different recyclables. Yesterday I took two huge bags stuffed with plastic shopping bags (many of them from Wal-Mart, but Target makes no distinction). I was happy to do something responsible with them instead of adding to our overfilled landfill. You can do the same (I'm not offering to collect your plastic shopping bags). Here's to Happy Recycling in 2022!

*Judy Ballard*



# OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: Who is Barabbas in the New Testament? *Judy Ballard*

## **ANSWER FOR DECEMBER:**

Who is Mary Magdalene of the New Testament? Okay, her name may be familiar, but do you know why?

Answer: Mary Magdalene was a staunch *female* supporter of Christ's ministry. She was one of a group of women who provided for the care of Jesus. They made sure he had a place to stay and was fed. She was also relieved of **seven** demons which may explain her devout fellowship with Jesus (Luke 8:2-3)

## **JANUARY SECOND MILE GIVING**

Our Second Mile Giving for January will go to Faith Comes by Hearing. This is a local ministry whose goal is to work in partnership with churches to record and freely provide God's audible Word in every language that needs it by the year 2033. Seventy percent of the world's population live in oral cultures. That means that 5.7 billion people need to hear the Gospel in order to understand and accept it. Today 1.5 billion still do not have access to God's Word in a format that they can understand and engage. Their mission is: God's Word in audio. Their vision: to fulfill the Great Commission. To support this ministry, please mark "Faith Comes by Hearing" on the memo line of your check.



## Midwest Tornado Damage/Impact on Mayfield, Kentucky



*The Dec. 10 tornadoes brought down the roof and walls of Mayfield First UMC's sanctuary and blew out windows. PHOTO: Courtesy of Mayfield First UMC Facebook page*

**By Dan Curran**

December 16, 2021 | ATLANTA

“For a long time, we’ve talked about how discipleship is forged in a crucible of suffering,” the Rev. Joey Reed, lead pastor at Mayfield First United Methodist Church in Kentucky, told CBS News when talking about the December 2021 tornadoes. “After that suffering is acknowledged...after we have mourned our losses and start to let go of the things that mean so much to us, we can move into a bright future where we are helping our neighbors.”

The United Methodist Committee on Relief is already taking action to make that bright future possible.

Mayfield, which is now well-known because of the dramatic images documenting the damage it sustained, is one of the communities in eight states devastated by the recent disaster. More than 60 tornado reports were recorded in Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois and Missouri on Friday night and Saturday morning, according to the National Weather Service.

In the moments after the storm, Lara S. Martin, director of U.S. Disaster Response for UMCOR, was in contact with conference disaster response coordinators serving the impacted regional conferences. The CDRCs had each received training from UMCOR and were already responding to the situation.

As part of its mission, UMCOR supports its local partners with education, training, resources, volunteers and access to materials that help them lead disaster response and recovery efforts. The district DRC for the Mayfield area was onsite the day after the storms.

Days after the storm, at the request of the Arkansas, Kentucky and Tennessee-Western Kentucky conferences, UMCOR awarded solidarity grants to enable them to assist with the immediate needs of survivors, many of whom are now without food, shelter and clothing. These grants offer flexibility to the conferences in responding to needs as they emerge. In

addition, as damage assessments are completed and recovery plans put in place, UMCOR is prepared to extend this response.



*Signs of significant damage and debris in front of Mayfield First UMC in Mayfield, KY, after tornadoes roared through the town on Dec. 10, 2021. PHOTO: Courtesy of Mayfield First UMC Facebook page*

“Based on the initial assessments and UMCOR’s experiences with hurricanes Katrina, Sandy, Irma and Maria, we predict this will be a very long-term recovery effort,” said Martin. “When we say UMCOR is ‘early in, last out,’ it is because long after a storm has gone away, UMCOR is there providing the case management services survivors need to access government resources that enable them to rebuild their lives.”

“As search and recovery efforts are still ongoing, we encourage anyone interested in helping not to self-deploy but instead to wait for updates on how and when to engage,” Martin told UM News. “Until then, we invite continued prayer and the support of survivors through donations to **Advance #901670**. As rescue efforts shift to response, UMCOR stands ready to journey with the affected conferences from the chaos of this week’s disaster toward a holistic, multiyear, long-term recovery.”

Roland Fernandes, general secretary of UMCOR and the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, said UMCOR stands with the people in the tornadoes’ paths.

“We grieve alongside those who experienced sudden and deep loss in the aftermath of this weekend’s destructive storms — loss of life, loss of home, loss of community,” he said. “UMCOR remains steadfast in both prayer and support for the many states that are navigating immediate relief efforts and is ready to accompany communities on the long road toward healing.”

Rev. Reed, who with his wife took shelter in a closet in the basement of First United Methodist Church, said that during the time spent there he thought it “might be the last few moments of my life on this earth.” As they emerged from the church after the storm and saw the destruction, they realized they were blessed to be alive and awed by what God had seen them through.

UMCOR’s staff and network of volunteers are committed to helping people like Reed and his family who have lived through this harrowing experience.

*Dan Curran, of Curran PR, is a consultant with UMCOR and Global Ministries.*

## **UMCOR Response to the Tornado's in the Midwest**

Pastor Reuben and I have been asked about UMCOR's response to the tremendous damage, loss of life and helping survivors that were impacted by these tornado's and what we could do to support the efforts.

- 1) You can help those effected by offering prayers for the families and first responders.
- 2) You could make an additional second mile giving monetary donation. You can write the check to HDUMC with "UMCOR Disaster Relief-US" in the memo line - and we will send the \$\$ onto UMCOR.

### **The lasted update that I was able to find is as follows:**

Once more, communities across the Midwest have endured a violent tornadic event between Dec. 10-11. From Arkansas through Missouri, Tennessee, Illinois and Kentucky, a historically significant series of tornadoes caused tremendous loss of life and infrastructure. The response has already begun – and people across the country are expressing their usual heartfelt support. In the case of our United Methodist family, UMCOR already is supporting those on the ground with emergency grants and recovery direction. Of course, the efforts are still geared toward rescue – so, only trained rescue personnel are active on the scene. This means that deployment of our Early Response Teams and other volunteers will await both the stabilizing of the situation AND an invitation from our United Methodist partners on the ground in the affected states.

So, what can be done right now?

- Please keep those affected by this in your **prayers**. Too quickly the news cycle moves on, and the struggles of survivors are too easily forgotten. This is a long-term recovery/rebuild operation. You will help our people pray meaningfully by providing regular updates, telling the stories of people in need and of those responding as a way to guide and inspire our prayers.
- **Donate**. Currently, money only. Please do not collect any other supplies until we communicate with you directly what is needed. . Every dollar given will go directly to aid in the recovery of the affected communities, using the Disaster Response leadership in the affected conferences to apply as they see fit.

“The loss of life and catastrophic destruction of property we have seen unfold in Kentucky is unfathomable,” North Texas Conference Bishop Michael McKee said. “As we approach this holiday season, I ask that our United Methodist family lift up those who experienced loss from these storms as well as prayerfully consider giving if you are able to help those who need our assistance now more than ever.”

Lara Martin, UMCOR’s Director of U.S. Disaster Response, said, “I would just add UMCOR’s gratitude for the outpouring of support, as we begin the journey with the affected conferences and communities. We’ve already issued funds to support survivors and the initial response efforts.” If you have questions, please fee free to call Pastor Reuben or Linn Carlson.

God Bless

*Linn*



## 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.

<b>Sheila Arce</b>	4910 Tramway Ridge Dr. NE, #318, Albq. NM 87111	
<b>Lois Brister</b>	2867 Cripple Creek Drive SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	892-7987
<b>Grover Donahoe</b>	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	220-3839
<b>Mac Esquibel</b>	4544 Aguila Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-1469
<b>Lorra Garner</b>	Genesis, 9150 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq. 87114	408-722-6482
<b>Phil Pittman</b>	C/O Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NW Room 28, Albuquerque, NM 87120	
<b>Mary Lou Schimke</b>	7927 Jamestown Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114-4498	898-5911
<b>Norvin Schuman</b>	382 Nicklaus Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-0526
<b>Rod &amp; Louise Warpole</b>	10301 Golf Course Rd NW, #1190, Albuquerque, NM 87114	382-9706
<b>Mae Washburn</b>	Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr NW, Albq. 87120	
<b>Sister Barbara Kopecki</b>	3800 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659	



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

Dayton Molzen	1/6
Paul Rexroh	1/10
Mae Washburn	1/11
Bailey Siverts	1/11
Lois Brister	1/17
Helen Hill-Stephens	1/18
Jane Komatz	1/20
Harold Sampson	1/21
Bonnie Korngiebel	1/24
Ian Colbert	1/28
Bob Mercaldi	1/29
Rev Charles Kottenbrook	1/29
Holly Benson	1/30
Ella Jerome	1/30
Liz Thompson	1/30
Mac Esquibel	1/30
Jeff Pratt	1/30

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



Del & Francie Larsen	1/4/92
Gary & Laurie Smothermon	1/11/92
Raj & Cynthia Gandham	1/16
Don & Sity Roach	1/24/59

# Welcome to 2022, Everyone!

May these encourage you in the new year and remind you of all the potential God has to make your life new, over and over again.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. -2 Corinthians 5:17*

*Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. -Psalm 98:1*

*Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. -Isaiah 43:19*

*...to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. -Ephesians 4:22-24*

*<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... -1 Peter 1:3*

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;<sup>[a]</sup> his mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. -Lamentations 3:22-23*

*And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, -Ezekiel 11:19*

*But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me. -Micah 7:7*

*...but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. -Isaiah 40:31*

*He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. - Ecclesiastes 3:11*

---

## **High Desert United Methodist Church**

1201 Golf Course Road  
Rio Rancho, NM 87174  
Office Hours: Wednesdays  
9AM-Noon  
Phone: 505-891-4206.  
Email:

We're on the Web!  
[www.highdesertumc.org](http://www.highdesertumc.org)

---

## **HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY**

**Distribution dates for January are:**

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

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

**Thursday, January 20th at 1:00 p.m.**

**January Collection: Cereal & Small Boxes of Oatmeal**

Contact Mike Fawcett at (715) 456-3044, for more information.

---