

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

January, 2023, Issue 1

Sometimes we don't know or realize the impact a kind word, an act of kindness or a service project will have. If you remember last summer in July, we replaced the old waterline at the St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel, New Mexico, with a new 440-foot waterline. This waterline ran from the well house next to the convent across a county road to the school and now provides an adequate supply of fresh water to the school and students. When we installed the new line, we decided to also install a frost-free faucet in a field in front of the convent so that the school could have a garden and grow watermelons and pumpkins. When we went out to San Fidel last month to present the students at St. Joseph Mission School with the Christmas gift cards that you generously provided, Antonio Trujillo, the principal, told us that while families throughout the State celebrated Thanksgiving, some residents of the Acoma Pueblo went without running water. In October, the Pueblo's main waterline failed. When Antonio heard about this, he offered the residents water from their well. Antonio said that people lined

up at the faucet that we installed this past summer to fill their tanks and containers. Little did we know when we decided to put that faucet in how beneficial it would be to the residents of the Acoma Pueblo during the recent water crisis.

On a very snowy Sunday morning in Colchester, England, only a handful of people showed up at the Primitive Methodist Church; even the preacher didn't make it. Those present were about ready to leave without a service when a young 15-year-old boy came in out of the blizzard. Then one of the men volunteered to lead the worship. He struggled through a ten-minute sermon. At the end, he turned to the young man and shouted: "Young man, look to Jesus Christ. Look! Look!" Unknown to those present at the time, and especially the lay speaker, the young man accepted Jesus Christ into his heart and would go on to become the great nineteenth century English pastor and evangelist, Charles Hadden Spurgeon. Like the struggling lay speaker, you never know what impact your words and acts of kindness will have.

We are called to make a difference in this world, to leave things better than we found them. Think about it

-if each person did their best for the Lord each and every day what a difference it would make in the world around us. The way of Jesus Christ is clear: love and service. Examples are all around us. We can't change the world overnight, but each one of us can do our part to make this a better place to live and show God's love through acts of love and kindness to all we meet.

Let us follow these words of wisdom from John Wesley: ***“Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can.”***

As we begin 2023, look for ways to help others, to show kindness and offer words of encouragement. You will never know the impact it will have. Happy New Year!

Reuben



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



Our next Fellowship Outing is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 11:00 AM. We will go out to lunch together at Milly's Restaurant, 7308 Jefferson St. NE in Albuquerque. So that we can give the restaurant an accurate head count, please sign up in the narthex. Also, please indicate on the sign-up sheet if you would like a ride on the church bus.

Until next time, Ken Dewbre, Fellowship Committee Chairperson

Pet Food Needed 4 Paws Pet Food Bank

As the cost of living continues to increase, sometimes people are forced to choose between buying groceries for themselves or food for their pets. 4 Paws Pet Food Bank*, located on the grounds of Corrales Kennels, was created to help those who are struggling to feed their companion animals. The goal is to keep people and pets together by providing quality pet food to bridge the gap for those experiencing financial strain.

The need in the community has been steadily increasing over the past few months, outpacing the donations needed to keep the shelves full. HDUMC may be assisting 4 Paws in the future with an organized effort, but if you happen to have excess food for cats or dogs (canned, dry, or veterinary special diets) that you would be willing to donate, please contact Lisa Isenberger at lisenberger@gmail.com or (505)228-3395.

COMMUNITY OF HOPE

Unfortunately, after years of providing meals to the homeless at First United Methodist Church in downtown Albuquerque, Community of Hope served its last meal on Sunday December 18. High Desert UMC has been involved in this ministry for over four years. Thanks to all those who have provided food and financial support, and volunteered to serve meals. Special thanks to Gordon and Wanda Golsan who provided the initial leadership in this mission project and to Dave and Sue Duranty for their recent leadership and dedication. Also thanks to Steve and Gloria Lamoreux who have volunteered to assist Dave and Sue each month over the past few years. The Ministry Team has transferred the funds designated to this now terminated mission to the Interfaith Bible Center which serves a very similar ministry.

Another Opportunity to Give



Winter Clothing Collection: Each winter, we collect gloves, stocking caps, blankets, and new socks for the homeless. If you wish to contribute, just place your donated items in the basket in the Narthex.

WESLEY COVENANT PRAYER

Let me be your servant, under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things.

Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me be nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal. Amen

Hard at Work



Thanks to Gordon Golsan, Lynn Hood, Dann Meyer and Bruce Packard for helping construct the new sidewalk on the south side of the church to provide easy and safe access from the church to the parking lot and the container storage unit.

Christmas Caroling at MorningStar



Christmas Eve



Candlelight Services



Discipleship Corner

A new monthly feature by Lisa Isenberger

Living as Disciples


The word disciple is used in the Bible to describe someone who closely followed a spiritual leader, or “rabbi”, with the intent of learning and doing. While the twelve called by Jesus are known as his disciples, Jesus never intended for the number of disciples to end at twelve. The Great Commission recorded in the gospel of Matthew makes it clear that we are also to be His disciples.

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’ ” - Matthew 28:18-20

Have you ever wondered what it means to live like a disciple? I came up with a list of four actions to think about. Perhaps there is an area where you can focus on this month as you walk with Christ to live as one of His disciples.

- Lean On the Lord - Lean on God, have full faith in Jesus, and trust the Spirit. We can live like disciples by leaning on the Lord both in good times and bad.
- Love Others - Practice agape love, striving to do what is best for others. We can live like disciples by putting love into action to all kinds of people, even the difficult to love.
- Learn from Jesus - Study and embrace the teachings of Jesus. We can live like disciples by putting His teachings into practice through our actions.
- Labor in Service - Engage in the mission of God by serving as the hands and feet of Jesus. We can live like disciples by laboring in service to all of God’s children.

Prayer - Heavenly Father, Jesus taught us to make disciples of all nations. I want to live as a true disciple of Christ, one who follows Him closely. Help me to lean on you, to love others, to learn from Jesus, and to labor in service. Thank you for your amazing grace, your mercy and your love. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



When the carols have been stilled, when the star-topped tree is taken down, when family and friends are gone home, when we are back to our schedules, the work of Christmas begins: To welcome the refugee, to heal a broken planet, to feed the hungry, to build bridges of trust, not walls of fear, to share our gifts, to seek justice and peace for all people, to bring Christ’s light to the world. - by *Michael Dougherty*

January 2023

HIGH DESERT UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

Happy
New
Year

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Epiphany 1 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 12-2:30 Bag Ladies	3	4 Office Hours 9 AM-12 Noon 5:30 PM Bible St. & Choir	5 10 AM Women with Purpose 11 AM Fellow- ship Comm.	6 11 AM - 2:00 PM Food Pantry	7
8 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	9 10 AM Bible Study 10 AM: FNMK Bagging	10 6 PM Ministry Team	11 Office Hours 9 AM-12 Noon 10:30 Bible St. 5:30 PM Bible St. & Choir	12	13	14
15 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	16 10 AM Bible Study	17 9 AM Food Pantry	18 Office Hours 9 AM - 12 Noon 5:30 PM Bible St. & Choir	18 1 PM Food Pantry	20	21
22 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	23 10 AM Bible Study	24	25 Office Hours 9 AM - 12 Noon 5:30 PM Choir Bible Study	26	27	28 Memorial Service for Charles Kottenbrook 2 PM
29 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	30 10 AM Bible Study	31				
		SS = Sunday School MS = MorningStar Worship FNMK = Feed New Mexico Kids				

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: Who was Bartimaeus? (New Testament)

ANSWER FOR NOVEMBER: (Who was Jabez?)

Because Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and because he earnestly asked God for His blessing and safekeeping, God granted them to Jabez. This is known as the Prayer of Jabez. It is considered to be one of the most powerful prayers recorded in the OT. (I Chron 4:9-10)

Gift Basket Ministry



With the increased patient load due to the resurgence of Covid cases, the medical professionals are working long hard hours, and perhaps our gifts of love will help make their days and little brighter. We are grateful to Francie, Gloria Lamoreaux and the Monday morning Bible Study class for taking the leadership of this project.

Our gift basket ministry continues to bless the hard working medical personnel and first responders of our community. Recently, Del and Francie Larsen delivered a cart load of baskets filled with snacks and treats to Rust Presbyterian Hospital to be placed at the nurses' stations.



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 to the church.

Bible Studies Available

SUNDAY 10 AM: Studying a LifeGuide Topical Bible Studies, entitled "Meeting God." Led by Tony Smith.

MONDAY 10 AM: Francie Larsen leads a study entitled "God the Savior".

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: Our Wednesday morning class is led by Judy Ballard.

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: A study entitled *Believe, Living the Story of the Bible to Become Like Jesus*. We focus on 30 of the Bible's greatest lessons on living the Christian life.

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

ONLINE STUDIES: We are currently sending out each week an email from Tony Smith discussing a chapter from the Book of Isaiah. In addition, you can participate in one of Tony's online studies on Daniel, John and Revelation at coraleno@aol.com.

Women with Purpose

Thursday, January 5, 2023

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Our first project for 2023 will be assembling and donating socks filled with candy, flashlights, combs, and granola bars to be distributed to veterans by the Veterans Integration Center (VIC) in Albuquerque. Please join us for a time of fellowship, service, and yummy refreshments.

COME, and bring a friend!



Care Ministry

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

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	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
Rod & Louise Warpole	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	332-9706
Mary Lou Schimke	7927 Jamestown Road NW, Albuquerque, 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	
Ella Jerome	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	312-2992
Wanda Schierling	921 Purple Aster, Bernalillo, NM 87004	970-398-0501



Del & Francie Larsen	January 4
Gary & Laurie Smothermon	January 11
Raj & Cynthia Gandham	January 16
Don & Sity Roach	January 24



Wanda Whittlesey-Jerome	Jan. 6
Dayton Molzen	Jan. 6
Sheree Osborn	Jan. 8
Paul Rexroth	Jan. 10
Bailey Siverts	Jan. 11
Lois Brister	Jan. 17
Helen Hill-Stephens	Jan. 18
Jane Komatz	Jan. 20
Harold Sampson	Jan. 21
Martha Wilson	Jan. 24
Bonnie Korngiebel	Jan. 24
Valerie Forbes	Jan. 25
Ian Colbert	Jan. 28
Ken Schierling	Jan. 28
Holly Benson	Jan. 30
Ella Jerome	Jan. 30
Liz Thompson	Jan. 30
Mac Esquibel	Jan. 30
Jeff Pratt	Jan. 30

Words that should end with 'Amen':

He who takes his stand for Christ is not likely to fall for the devil.

High Desert United Methodist Church

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

January, 2023 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for January, 2023 are:

Friday, January 6 at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, January 17 at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 19 at 1:00 p.m.

January Collection: Oatmeal/Cereal

Contact Mike Fawcett at (715)456-3044

for more information.
