

*“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”*

# HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS*

July, 2022, Issue 7

At our New Mexico Annual Conference in Las Cruces last month, we voted to close five churches – FIVE! These were in Lordsburg, Clark Memorial in Artesia, Truth or Consequences, Monte Sinai in Carlsbad, and Shiprock. Ever since I have been attending the Annual Conference over the past twenty-five years, it seems as if we have closed at least one church every year. Doesn't it break your heart to see a church that is dying and closing its doors, no longer in service to God? I bet it hurts God's heart too. I have often wondered what went wrong; why did they close their doors? I realize that church attendance has been declining over the years and that we are an aging church and denomination. But there's got to be other reasons, and I hope and pray that there are ways to reverse this trend.

Let me give you some of my personal thoughts without being critical of the leadership of those churches that have closed their doors and are no longer witnessing to Jesus Christ in their communities. In some ways, we as a group of churches have not lived up to what God wants us to do. In a way, we have gotten

complacent, lazy and lost our focus on serving God and following Jesus Christ. Many churches have turned inward and become social clubs and not fulfilled the Great Commission.

In his book *Leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit*, Lovett Weems said that “if you want to thrive then serve;” in other words if you want to grow as a church and build God's kingdom, then you need to reach out and meet the needs of your neighbors in love and service to the Lord. Albert Outler, a scholar of the Methodist Church, said it best: “The world hears the gospel when it sees it, when Christians are clearly concerned with the human existence and care for the needs of those less fortunate.” In other words, loving God and loving our neighbors.

This is one reason that I am always focusing on outreach and missions. And I do truly appreciate all your support for our mission programs which include Feed New Mexico Kids, Interfaith Bible Center, Community of Hope, Gift Basket Ministry, MorningStar, and the Pantry. I am especially excited about our possible outreach to St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel.

One of our former bishops said that as Christians and congregations we

get so comfortable with the way things are that we do nothing. We know what needs to be done to fulfill the Great Commission, but we don't do it. We know that we need to get out of our comfort zones and reach out to the surrounding community. We all know friends, neighbors and co-workers who are not currently attending any church and whose lives would be enhanced by knowing Jesus Christ and being part of the fellowship of the church. It's simple; all we have to do is reach out and invite them to come to church with us. So, I challenge each of you to invite at least two individuals to church over the next three months. We are called to sow the seeds of faith, letting them fall where they may. God is responsible for the growth; our job is to sow. So, in the coming weeks and months, let us go out into the fields of Rio Rancho and Corrales, and sow the seeds of the Good News. Make a difference in somebody's life, invite them to church.

God bless. Reuben

## A Word from our Finance Chairman

As you may be aware, the High Desert United Methodist Finance Committee values the principles that come from the parable of the “good servant” and the story of the importance of the “widow's mite”. In keeping with these values, we completed a financial comparison of bank services offered by area banks and reviewed bank recommendations from other churches. This information led us to a bank that provides improved support for our Treasurer, provides increased bank services, provides an opportunity for interest on deposits and provides methods to improve the safety of bank deposits.

After this review and following a recommendation by our Finance Committee, the High Desert United Methodist Church’s Ministry Team approved a change in our banking relationship. The Bank of America was chosen as the Church’s bank.

We provide this information as a part of our commitment to complete openness in the High Desert financial process.

In your service,  
William Gordon Golsan Jr., Chair, High Desert United Methodist Church Finance Committee



## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship activity for June was a tour of the Coronado Historic Site. The first historic site in New Mexico. A big THANKS to Judy Ballard for her hard work in organizing this activity. We had a small number of participants, only 11, but everyone seemed to enjoy the tour. The walking distance wasn't very long and there were frequent stops along the way. Also, there were several benches available to sit and rest if needed.

Our tour guide did a great job. She was very informative. We all learned a great deal about the history of these Pueblo people. I would highly recommend that you take a tour of this historic site whenever you can.

We are now looking forward to the July Fellowship activity which will be an ice cream social at the Church. See you there !



**STAY TUNED!**    *God Bless, Ken Dewbre, Fellowship Committee Chair*

### Words that should end with ‘Amen’:

“A bend in the road is not fatal. . . unless you fail to make the turn.”

## JULY SECOND MILE GIVING – Interfaith Bible Center

Our Second Mile Giving for July will be for the Interfaith Bible Center located at 7501 Trumbull Avenue SE in the International Zone of Albuquerque where they provide daily meals, showers and housing for the homeless. Rev. Joanne Landry serves a hot meal five days a week. You can imagine that this is quite expensive as the demand continues to increase. Over the past few years, High Desert UMC has been purchasing approximately \$350 of food each month to support this ministry. Thus, during July you may contribute to this essential ministry by noting “Interfaith Bible Center” on memo line of your check to the church. Thank you for your continued support for the outreach ministries of High Desert UMC.

### **You’re My Best Friend**

Sandie and I have always enjoyed country music and one of our favorite recording artists is the late great Don Williams. His style of conveying his feelings through his smooth singing voice is especially evident in his song “You’re My Best Friend.” I have spent many hours listening to his lyrics and thinking how appropriate the love tribute delivered in this song is to one’s life partner. But on closer reflection, I realize that his message can also mirror my personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Remember: “With God, all things are possible.”

*“You placed gold on my finger. You brought Love like I’ve never known.  
You gave life to our children; And to me, a reason to go on.  
When I need hope and inspiration, You are always strong when I’m tired and weak.  
I could search this whole world over, You’d still be everything that I need.*

Chorus: *You’re my bread when I’m hungry. You’re my shelter from troubled winds.  
You’re my anchor in life’s ocean. But most of all, You’re my best friend.”*

God Bless. Mike Fawcett

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Please join us on Sunday, July 3, for an old fashioned Ice Cream Social in the fellowship hall between the 9:00 and 11:00 services, in celebration of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.





## *Celebrate Growing Old*

- Growing old beats the alternative of dying young.
- Envy is a waste of time. Accept what you already have, not what you want.
- Throw your problems in a pile—you'll take them back when you see others'.
- Go outside, miracles are waiting everywhere.
- However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
- What other people think of you is none of your business.
- Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
- Frame every disaster with 'In five years, will this matter?'
- Life isn't always fair and isn't tied with a bow, but it is still a gift.

## Women with Purpose

Thursday, July 7, 2022, 10:00 a.m., sanctuary

WWP's fearless leader, Wanda Golsan, is always on the lookout for new ways to serve our needy communities. Her diligence in this endeavor is without compare. This month's program is the result of a chance connection—a friend introduced her to Rev. Chris Davis who is affiliated with Compassionate Ministries Nazarene Church in Gallup. The purpose of this organization is to serve the poor and elderly Navajo people in the area. Though we have responded previously to this need, this month it is our sole focus. We will fill 100 Ziploc bags with non-perishable food to be distributed to these Native Americans. Rev. Davis is a true disciple of Christ, devoting her life to ministering to the needs of this small pocket of deserving people. She strives to be the hands of Christ and we are charged with encouraging her in that pursuit.

### **BIBLE STUDIES ANYONE?**

Sunday – 10:00 AM – Studying Isaiah– Led by Tony Smith

Monday – 10:00 AM – “*You Were Made for This Moment*” the story of Esther by Max Lucado – Led by Francie Larsen

Wednesday – 10:30 AM – Not meeting in July and August

Wednesday – 5:30 PM – Taking a break for the summer

Online Studies–Daniel, Revelation, & John – contact Tony Smith at coraleno@aol.com

# July 2022

HIGH DESERT UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH



| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday                          | Wednesday                            | Thursday               | Friday                 | Saturday |
|--|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| SS = Sunday School<br>MS = MorningStar   |   |                                  |                                      |                        | 1<br>11 AM Food Pantry | 2        |
| 3<br><b>9 AM Worship</b><br><b>10 AM SS</b><br><b>Ice Cream Social</b><br><b>10:30 AM MS</b><br><b>11 AM Worship</b> | 4<br> | 5                                | 6<br>Office Hours<br>9 AM - 12 Noon  | 7                      | 8                      | 9        |
| 10<br><b>9 AM Worship</b><br><b>10 AM SS</b><br><b>10:30 AM MS</b><br><b>11 AM Worship</b>                           | 11<br>10:00 AM Bible Study  | 12<br>6 PM Ministry Team Meeting | 13<br>Office Hours<br>9 AM - 12 Noon | 14                     | 15                     | 16       |
| 17<br><b>9 AM Worship</b><br><b>10 AM SS</b><br><b>10:30 AM MS</b><br><b>11 AM Worship</b>                           | 18<br>10:00 AM Bible Study  | 19<br>9 AM Food Pantry           | 20<br>Office Hours<br>9 AM - 12 Noon | 21<br>1 PM Food Pantry | 22                     | 23       |
| 24<br><b>9 AM Worship</b><br><b>10 AM SS</b><br><b>10:30 AM MS</b><br><b>11 AM Worship</b>                           | 25<br>10:00 AM Bible Study  | 26                               | 27<br>Office Hours<br>9 AM - 12 Noon | 28                     | 29                     | 30       |
| 31<br><b>9 AM Worship</b><br><b>10 AM SS</b><br><b>10:30 AM MS</b><br><b>11 AM Worship</b>                           |   |                                  |                                      |                        |                        |          |

# OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: Who was Eliab in the Old Testament? *Judy Ballard*

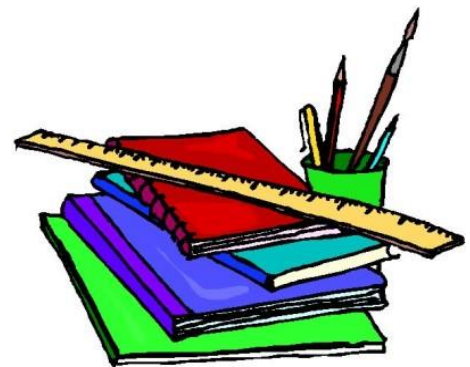
## **ANSWER FOR JUNE:** (From Mark 5)

Legion was the name of the evil spirit(s) / demons that possessed a man who lived in a cave in the vicinity of Gerasa. When Jesus drove out the demons from the man, they went into a herd of pigs, which then ran down the hill into the lake, drowning.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION

During the month of July, we will be collecting school supplies for our local schools and St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel. As we all know there are many families that cannot afford to buy all the items required for their children's classes. While we are focusing on the basic supplies for the local schools, we are focusing on art supplies for St. Joseph Mission School:

| LOCAL SCHOOLS       | ST. JOSEPH MISSION  |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Pencils             | Crayons             |
| Crayons             | Pencil Boxes        |
| Regular Glue Sticks | Art Paper           |
| Notebooks           | Drawing/Sketch Pads |
| Notebook Paper      | Water Colors        |
| Children's Scissors | Washable Kids Paint |
| Erasers             | Colored Pencils     |
|                     | Crayola Markers     |



You may place your donation in the bins in the Narthex.

# Care Ministry

You are invited to call or send cards to these members of our church family to offer words of support and encouragement.

|                                 |  |              |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>Lois Brister</b>             | 2867 Cripple Creek Drive SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124                        | 892-7987     |
| <b>Sheila Arce</b>              | 4910 Tramway Ridge Dr. NE, #318, Albq. NM 87111                          |              |
| <b>Phil Pittman</b>             | C/O Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NW Albuquerque, NM 87120 |              |
| <b>Lorra Garner</b>             | Genesis, 9150 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq 87114                                | 408-722-6482 |
| <b>Grover Donahoe</b>           | 766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124                                    | 220-3839     |
| <b>Rod &amp; Louise Warpole</b> | 600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124                                | 332-9706     |
| <b>Mary Lou Schimke</b>         | 7927 Jamestown Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114-4498                       | 898-5911     |
| <b>Mac Esquibel</b>             | 4544 Aguila Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124                                | 891-1469     |
| <b>Sister Barbara Kopecki</b>   | 3800 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659                                 |              |
| <b>Ella Jerome</b>              | 813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004                                    | 206-4894     |
| <b>Glynda Lester</b>            | 10301 Golf Course Rd, SE, Albuquerque, NM                                | 719-429-2506 |
| <b>Wanda Schierling</b>         | 921 Purple Aster, Bernalillo, NM 87004                                   | 970-398-0501 |



|                   |         |  |
|-------------------|---------|--|
| Barry Birch       | July 2  |  |
| Linette Carlson   | July 3  |  |
| Grover Donahoe    | July 4  |  |
| Sandy Dewbre      | July 6  |  |
| David Zapf        | July 7  |  |
| Riley Siverts     | July 7  |  |
| Lana Packard      | July 8  |  |
| Ellie Mueller     | July 10 |  |
| Diane Youells     | July 12 |  |
| Shawn Colbert     | July 14 |  |
| Ione Harrand      | July 18 |  |
| Kai Warrior       | July 21 |  |
| Patty Latter      | July 21 |  |
| Warren Herrington | July 22 |  |
| Pat McMillan      | July 27 |  |
| Joanna Jones      | July 28 |  |
| Earl Hester       | July 28 |  |
| Dottie Hester     | July 28 |  |
| Shirley Rexroth   | July 31 |  |

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



|                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Tony & Sheila Smith     | July 4  |
| John & Lori Kottenbrook | July 12 |
| Paul & Rose Meyer       | July 22 |
| Mel & Faye Lora         | July 31 |



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# High Desert United Methodist Church

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Office Hours: Wednesday  
9AM-Noon

Phone: 505-891-4206;

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

July, 2022 Issue

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## HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

**Distribution dates for JULY are:**

**Friday, July 1 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Tuesday, July 19th at 9:00 a.m.**

**Thursday, July 21st at 1:00 p.m.**

**July Collection: Canned vegetables  
Contact Mike Fawcett at (715)456-3044  
for more information.**

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