

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN’S RAMBLINGS

July, 2024, Issue 7

During the New Mexico Annual Conference on June 12, Rev. Dr. Tanya Campen gave a presentation entitled: “Ministry with Children: Reimagining the Possibilities.” Her key points were: “What is God’s vision for children? How are we addressing the spiritual development of our children? If we are not paying attention to children, we are missing God!” Now it was an excellent presentation on the need for having a children’s ministry. However, most of the churches in attendance are like High Desert and have only a few if any children in their congregation. Unfortunately, this is the current status of most churches with more grandparents than young adults in attendance. Occasionally, we do have children in worship and Judy takes them to my office during the sermon for a Sunday School lesson.

As I reflected on this presentation, it came to me that while we don’t always have children in our congregation, we do have an extensive children’s ministry that reaches not only the children in Rio Rancho, but also extends westward to the

children of St. Joseph Mission School and the Gallup Nazarene Church.

Think about it! Our Feed New Mexico Kids program provides weekend food packages to students at five local schools. In addition, we have comfort kits which include a blanket, a stuffed animal and other items that are provided by Women with Purpose to local police departments to be available to calm children during a domestic crisis.

Then there is all the work and financial support that we provide to St. Joseph Mission School which is educating 41 students from the Acoma and Laguna Pueblos and the local community while sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with them. During Christmas, we gave each student a \$50 gift card. In Gallup, members of our congregation have conducted Vacation Bible Schools and classes for the local children. At Christmas, we provided presents for them. Annually, we collect school supplies for local schools, Pantry clients, St. Joseph, and the Nazarene Church in Gallup.

So, the next time someone complains that we don’t have children here at High Desert share with them all we are doing to educate children here in Rio Rancho and throughout New Mexico, and to help share the gospel to them. While you don’t often see

children in our worship services, we are making a consecrated effort to minister to children where we find them. I thank you for your continued support for our outreach programs. During the month of July, I hope that you will support our efforts by bringing school supplies that will be distributed to clients of the Pantry, St. Joseph Mission School, and the Gallup Nazarene Church.

At the Annual Conference, we also had two presentations by Dr. Ashely Boggan on John Wesley and the history of the Methodist Church. The key points that I took away from her remarks were: 1) Methodists are not identified as much as by their beliefs as by their actions; 2) Methodists are people of faith who act out their love; 3) we are to be a loving presence in the world; 4) we may not be of one opinion, but may we be of one heart; and 5) while we may not think alike, may we love alike. Special thanks to Lisa Isenberger for representing High Desert at the Annual Conference.

God Bless. Reuben

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Who was Naaman in the Old Testament? Find the answer elsewhere in this issue.

Bible Studies Available

Although our Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday Bible Study classes are on a break for the summer, we offer the following options at this time:

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.

BE A KID AGAIN - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Do you want to be a kid again and relive memories of the past, plus have fun and enjoy fellowship with others? Then join us on Thursday August 8 and Friday August 9. This year we will focus on missions. We will begin at 9 am with a brief worship of hymns and a devotional which will be followed by a mission presentation. Different individuals will lead the devotionals and presentation each morning.

After a break we will have a time of crafts, making items for our various mission projects. Then there will be a time for indoor games. We will end each morning by sharing lunch together.

Here's a great chance to spend a morning having fun with friends. This is also a great opportunity for you to invite a friend or neighbor to join us. Ask anybody who participated last year and they will tell you that they had a great time; you don't want to miss it this year!



**Happy 67th
Anniversary to:
Dottie & Earl
Hester, and to
Bryce and Sara
Hendricks. A
reception was held
for each couple on
June 16th.**



JAM Sessions (Jesus and Music)

Join us on Friday afternoons at 4:30 in the Sanctuary for a time of playing instruments and singing some of our favorite Christian songs. Everyone is welcome. For details, see Drew Ammons or John Kottenbrook.



JULY SECOND MILE GIVING:

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. Matthew 25:35-36 states: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” Rev. Joanne Landry serves a hot meal five days a week. You can imagine that this is quite expensive as the numbers continue to increase. Over the past few years, High Desert UMC has been purchasing approximately \$350 of food each month to support this ministry. In addition, we are providing bottles of water to be distributed during the hot summer months. During July you may contribute to this essential ministry to ensure that no one goes hungry 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.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

During the month of July, we will be collecting school supplies for our local schools, Pantry clients, St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel, and Gallup Nazarene Church. 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 most schools, we are focusing on art supplies for St. Joseph Mission School:

MOST 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
Backpacks	Crayola Markers

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

Mission Work Day – St. Joseph Mission School

On June 7, eighteen volunteers from High Desert traveled to San Fidel, New Mexico and spent five hours painting and sprucing up the building and grounds at St. Joseph Mission School. The work crew consisted of: Damon Bruce, Linn Carlson, Emily Sue Chambers, Dan Foley, Gordon Golsan, Wanda Golsan, Warren Herrington, Earl Hester, Lynn Hood, Bonnie Korngiebel, Bruce Packard, Earlene Price, Sheila Smith, Tony Smith, Lou Williams, Judy Thomas, and Reuben Thomas, plus Chris Davis from the Gallup Nazarene Church, and Antonio Trujillo of St. Joseph. After three hours of work in the hot sun, Ms. Rose, the school's cook, treated us to a wonderful lunch in the air-conditioned cafeteria. Then it was back to work until a rain storm forced the tired crew to pack up and head for home. We all agreed that it was a satisfying experience, and we look forward to going again. Some of us are pictured below, hard at work!





Fellowship Events

July Fellowship Event: The Wheels Museum on July 23 at 9:30 am. Cost is \$10. Sign up in the Narthex. Carpooling can be arranged.

Feed New Mexico Kids



Wanda and Gordon Golsan received a check for \$3000 from the Kiwanis Club of Corrales for Feed New Mexico Kids. Lynn Martinez presented

the check after an inspiring talk by Wanda at their recent meeting. This gift will provide approximately 500 food bags (an example of which Gordon is holding) for children in five local elementary schools. This will feed the children on weekends for one month. However, there are still many months to be covered, so the need continues. Thank you ever so much to the Golsans for coordinating this ministry and to the congregation of High Desert UMC for your support.

Church Library – Check it out



We are so blessed by friends in our church who willingly donate books to the church library. You may have already found a gently used favorite that speaks to you. Then just keep reading and reading the book.

If you are looking for an inspirational book, try some of these! *Faith Still Moves Mountains* by Harris Faulkner that talks about the spiritual presence of God.

God is in the Small Things by Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz are wonderful devotions of inspiration. *Joy for a Woman's Soul* by Gwen Ellis talks about discovering joy and sharing joy.

And just for a different inspirational twist, try the humorous devotions of Rich Praytor, *Stand-up Comic Sits Down with Jesus!*

Military Family Prayer List

Many men and women are faithfully serving our country in the armed service all over the world to protect our country and ensure our freedom. Please pray for the safety of:

Master Sergeant Gary Carter, US Army

Prya Chino, US Navy

Sergeant Major Reginald Daniels, United States Marine Corp, United Arab Emirates

Petty Officer 1st Class Owen Garcia, US Navy

Cadet Master Sergeant Darien Garcia, US Air Force Academy

Staff Sergeant Brock Henning, US Air Force

Major Herbert Jockheck, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Liberty, NC

Captain Brian Koa Yee, United States Air Force

Gunnery Sergeant Jesse Perkins, United States Marines, Bangkok

Captain Shelli Schimke, USAF Intelligence

Lieutenant Kristina Scott, US Navy

Lt. Colonel Ryan Stanfill, US Air Force, McConnell AFB, Wichita, Kansas

CPL Blake Stuart, USMC, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

JULY

2024

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Office Hrs: 9-12	4 <i>Happy 4th of July</i>	5 11-2 Pantry 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	6
7 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	8	9	10 Office Hrs: 9-12	11 10 AM Emmaus Agape Gr.	12 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	13
14 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	15	16 9 AM -12:00 noon Pantry	17 Office Hrs: 9-12	18 1:00-4:00 PM Food Pantry	19 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	20
21 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	22	23 9:30 AM Fellowship Outing	24 Office Hrs: 9-12	25	26 4:30 PM Jesus & Music 8:00 PM Spanish Church Prayer Meeting	27
28 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	29	30	31 Office Hrs: 9-12			

Note: The Report of the Lay Delegate to the Annual Conference will appear in the August Newsletter, after the Ministry Team has had time to review it.

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
Rod Warpole	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	332-9706
Mac Esquibel	4544 Aguila Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-1469
Ella Jerome	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	312-2992
Polly Van Lenten	920 Riverview Dr. SE, Apt 280, Rio Rancho 87124	979-277-4852
Vi Ortega	Care Free, 10916 Juan Tabo Place NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111	985-0953
Pat McElwain	4536 Ambrose Alday SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	235-7484
Goldie Buckner	920 Riverview Dr. SE Apt. 205 Rio Rancho, NM 87124	828-0486



Tony & Sheila Smith	July 4
Ron Sanders & Janet Barnard	July 6
Robert & Carli Pacheco	July 7
Del & Gay Smart	July 10
John & Lori Kottenbrook	July 12
Paul & Rose Meyer	July 22
Mel & Faye Lora	July 31

Barry Birch	July 2
Linn Carlson	July 3
Grover Donahoe	July 4
Sandy Dewbre	July 6
David Zapf	July 7
Riley Siverts	July 7
Lana Packard	July 8
Gwenneth Polhemus	July 9
Carolyn McDowell	July 9
Ellie Mueller	July 10
Shawn Colbert	July 14
Ione Harrand	July 18
Patty Latter	July 21
Kai Warrior	July 21
Warren Herrington	July 22
Kathy Hays	July 26
Earl Hester	July 28
Dottie Hester	July 28
Joanna Jones	July 28
Sanjay Abraham Rauri	July 28
Shirley Rexroth	July 31

**ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES
IN THE BIBLE:**

NAAMAN WAS A MAN WITH SEVERE
LEPROSY WHOSE WIFE'S SERVANT
SUGGESTED THAT HE SEEK OUT A
PROPHET NAMED ELISHA WHO COULD
HEAL HIM. AFTER SOME PERSUASION TO
BATHE IN THE JORDAN RIVER 7 TIMES,
HE FINALLY DID SO AND WAS HEALED.

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

July, 2024 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for July, 2024 are:

Friday, July 5, at 11:00 AM

Tuesday, July 16, at 9:00 AM

Thursday July 18, at 1:00 PM

July Collection: Pasta and Sauce

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

**Contact John Samford at (505) 870-0667
for more information.**
