

# *High Desert United Methodist Church*

## *Monthly Newsletter June 2019*

### *Reuben's Ramblings*

One of the best books that I have read on missions is entitled *The Hole in Our Gospel* by Richards Stearns. The idea behind it is quite simple; it's basically that being a Christian requires much more than a personal relationship with God. It also entails a public relationship with the world. If your personal faith with Jesus Christ has no positive outward expression, then your faith has a hole in it. Someone once cut out every verse in the Bible that dealt with poverty, sickness, and oppression. Guess what? That Bible was full of holes!

Sometimes we tend to think that the Great Commission just means saving as many people as we can for the life hereafter; so we tend to minimize our concern for the well-being of these same people in this life. Proclaiming the whole gospel, then, means much more than evangelism in hopes that people will hear and respond to the good news of salvation; it also encompasses tangible compassion for those less fortunate.

James 1:22 tells us to be doers of the Word and not merely listeners. Saint Francis of Assisi understood what James was talking about when he said "Preach the gospel always; when necessary use words." The surprising fact in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats in Matthew 25 is that the criterion for dividing the two groups is not that the sheep confessed faith in Christ while the goats did not, but rather that the sheep had acted in tangible and loving ways toward the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, and the vulnerable, while the goats had not.

Stearns urges us to ask the question, what if? What if all the followers of Jesus look beyond the walls of our churches and work together to reclaim the world for Christ? What if we actually demonstrated God's love for the world instead of just talking about it? What if we embrace the whole gospel of loving God and loving our neighbors? Think of the difference we could make in our own lives, our community, and the world.

Unfortunately, New Mexico leads the nation in the number of children who go without adequate food; one in four children in our State goes hungry. In Matthew 25 Jesus calls us to feed the hungry, to care for those who are less fortunate. We are currently involved in many efforts to feed the hungry such as distributing groceries through the Meadowlark Methodist Food Pantry (please see article in this newsletter for more details), feeding the homeless at the Community of Hope, and providing sack lunches for the homeless through the Interfaith Bible Center in the International Zone and University Heights UMC in downtown Albuquerque. We are working with Women With Purpose to implement a program in August to provide food for our local school children to see them through over the weekend. We will have more details on how you can help in the coming months. Your continued support for these efforts is greatly appreciated and definitely needed to fulfill Jesus' command.

God Bless. Reuben

## HDUMC's Meadowlark Methodist Food Pantry

Report by Mike Fawcett

The Meadowlark Methodist Food Pantry continues to be a very valuable outreach project for High Desert UMC. Through regular contributions from the congregation as well as a great increase in the TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) from the Road Runner Food Bank, we have been blessed to a point of increasing our contributions to our clients at very little internal cost. This has been a complete turnaround over the past decade when we had to purchase almost all the food that we distributed. The introduction of the “bonus day” beginning in the fourth quarter of 2018 has been a great addition to our mission and has been very well received by the clients of the community.

GROUPS	Q1-2018	Q2-2018	Q3-2018	Q4-2018	Q1-2019
Seniors	284	246	223	288	306
Adults	239	231	182	240	325
Children	168	192	156	188	203
Families	257	251	213	313	310

We experience some fluctuation during the year due to any number of reasons: weather, family travel, and possibly a gain or loss of employment for our families in need, but regardless Meadowlark Methodist Food Pantry is available and ready to serve our community and those in need. This outreach mission could not be possible without your continued support and dedicated volunteers from HDUMC.

### MEADOWLARK METHODIST CHURCH PANTRY

We take an offering on the first Sunday of every month to benefit the Food Pantry. On Sunday, June 2nd, a basket will be on the back table to receive your offering. Featured collection for June:

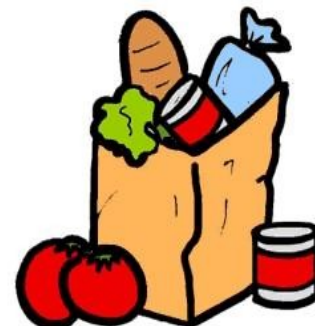
**Cooking oil (no shortening)**

**Distribution dates for June are:**

**Friday, June 7th at 9:00 a.m.**

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

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



## A Walk in "The Funnel"

By Arlene Westgaard

"The Runnel" some ancient one named it.

We know it by Embudo —

A wonderful wilderness area

Where the presence of God can funnel  
into your soul.

We walked there together, sometimes  
hand-in-hand,

Sometimes single file where the trail narrowed.

The only sounds were the twittering of birds,  
the chattering of a squirrel,

The scampering of a startled lizard and  
The rustling of bushes as four yearling deer  
Stepped cautiously into view.

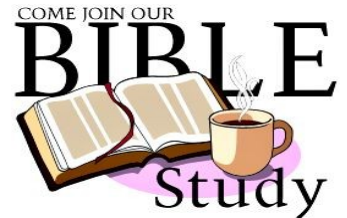
It's refreshing to be away from city sounds,  
It's refreshing to be able to hear God's voice

In Nature's stillness.

The trail leads back to the city,  
But we can better face our busy lives  
After a "walk" in the funnel .

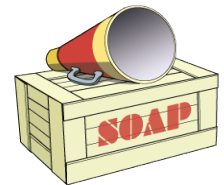
## Weekly Bible Study:

Presently three groups meet during the week: Adult Bible Study (aka Adult Sunday School) at 9:00 a.m. before Worship; the Tuesday afternoon Bible Study meets at 1:30 p.m. with a video program "In Pursuit of Peter." Wednesday evening Bible Study meets at 6:30 p.m. with an Overview of the Bible, book by book..



## **Judy sez . . .**

**Items for next  
Newsletter due by  
June 25th.**



## *Women with Purpose*



Women With Purpose will once again host about 100 homeless/hungry folks by serving Sunday Dinner on June 30th at United Methodist Church in Albuquerque. As each guest departs from their noon meal, he or she will be handed a 'ditty' bag with a new pair of socks, tube of lip balm, and a healthy snack bar. Keep in mind, these bags are lovingly and prayerfully assembled by our Women With Purpose. Now, for you ladies who have yet to join the ranks, doesn't this outreach tug at your heart to participate in the next mission venture? You are so welcome to join us!

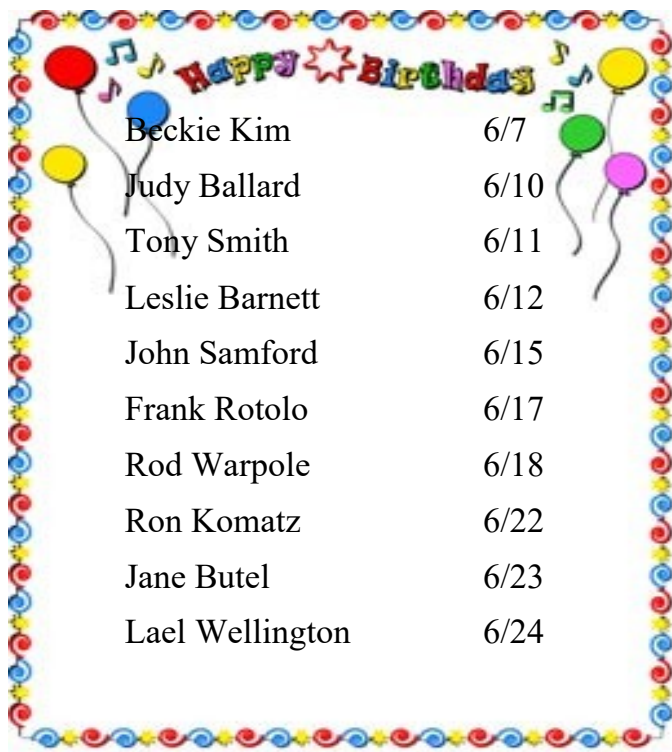
# June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> <b>9 &amp; 11 a.m.</b> <b>worship</b> <i>10: a.m. SS</i> <b>Bag Com-</b> <b>modities</b>	3	<b>4</b> <b>Bible Study</b> <b>1:30 p.m.</b>  <b>WWP</b> <b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>5</b> <i>WWP 10:00</i> <i>a.m.</i> <i>1 p.m. Mis-</i> <i>sion Team</i> <b>6:30 Bible</b> <b>Study</b>	6	<b>7</b> <i>Food</i> <i>Pantry</i> <i>9:00 am</i>	8
<b>9</b> <b>9 &amp; 11 am</b> Worship 10 a.m. SS Congregational Care Meeting	10	<b>11</b>  <b>Bible Study</b> <b>1:30 pm</b> <b>Ministry</b> <b>Team 6:00</b>	<b>12</b> <b>NM Annual</b> <b>Conference</b>  <b>6:30 Bible</b> <b>Study</b>	<b>13</b> <b>NM Annual</b> <b>Conference</b>	<b>14</b> <b>NM Annual</b> <b>Conference</b> <i>Fl.</i> 	15
<b>16</b> <i>9 &amp; 11 a.m.</i> <i>Worship</i> <i>10:00 a.m. SS</i>	17	<b>18</b> <i>Food Pantry</i> <i>9:00 a.m.</i>  <i>Bible Study</i> <i>1:30 p.m.</i>	<b>19</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> <b>Choir</b> <b>6:30 pm Bible</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Food Pantry</b> <b>1:00 p.m.</b>	21	22
<b>23</b> <b>9 &amp; 11 a.m.</b> <b>Worship</b> <i>10 a.m. SS</i>	24	<b>25</b> <i>Bible Study</i> <i>1:30 pm</i>	<b>26</b> <b>Choir 6:30</b> <b>Bible study</b> <b>6:30</b>	27	28	29
<b>30</b> <b>9 &amp; 11 a.m.</b> <b>worship</b> <b>10:00 a.m. SS</b>						

# Lay 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>Ella Jerome</b>	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	206-4894
<b>Frances O'Neal</b>	1355 Meadowlark Ln SE, Apt. 150, RR, NM 87124	
<b>Samuel Skinner</b>	920 Riverview Dr. SE, #248, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	
<b>Glen Nesbitt</b>	Advantage Assisted Living, 1729 Wellspring Ave. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	
<b>Phil Pittman</b>	1000 Riverview Dr. SE, #242, <b>Rio Rancho, 87124</b>	<b>301-7704</b>
<b>Mae Washburn</b>	Revenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr NW, Albq. 87120	
<b>Lorra Garner</b>	Skies Healthcare, 9150 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq. 87110	
<b>Nelson &amp; Joey Archuleta</b>	1740 Hudson River Rd. NE, Rio Rancho 87144	235-0774
<b>Norvin Schuman</b>	382 Nicklaus Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-0526
<b>Grover Donahoe</b>	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-0165
<b>Rod &amp; Louise Warpole</b>	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	994-9339
<b>Leonard Ortega</b>	3400 Oasis Springs Road NE, Rio Rancho 87144	296-7330



## Anniversaries

Gerald & Mildred Kay	6/2/51
Earl & Dottie Hester	6/8/57
Ron & Jane Komatz	6/9/61
Bryce & Sara Hendricks	6/16/57
Phyllis & Thunborg	6/17
Joey & Nelson Archuleta	6/25/83





Please note the occasional change in this announcement: Steelbridge Resource Center (aka Albuquerque Rescue Mission) occasionally changes the focus of its collections/donations to meet their current needs. April. 2019 donations: **NEW or gently used seasonal clothing, NEW socks & underwear; toiletries, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, combs.** There will be a container in the hall for your donations. For more info call Sheila Smith at 898-4644.

**Scripture Sharing Series—Matthew 11:28-30** I have so many favorite Bible verses that I sometimes have a hard time identifying just one. Then there are those few who come across as enigmatic. **“Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”** That seems straightforward, don't you think? Next verse: **“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”** Hm-m-m, I think I can follow that logic. But the last verse is a humdinger: **“For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”** What does that say to me, specifically? If His yoke is easy and His burden light, why is following Him such a challenge? Can someone explain it to me? ~Judy



**Wesley Change for Charity** is on the back table during worship service, waiting to be fed with your change or dollars. This allows High Desert to assist individuals, groups, and organizations with emergency financial needs.



**June 2019 collection for Meadowlark Methodist Food Pantry:** Items are targeted for you to purchase to help replenish the shelves. Featured this month is: **Cooking oil (no shortening).** Please place these items in the green barrel found by the back tables. Contact Mike Fawcett at 715-456-3044 for info. No bulk commodities.



**Recycling** Sunday Bulletins—leave in recycling box by the back table; Plastic bags—leave in container marked for plastic bags; Aluminum cans—place in container marked Homeless Ministry. **NEW to HDUMC Recycling: Glass items normally disposed of in your trash. Bring to church and leave in the class/storage room on the counter.**



**Condiments & Small Toiletries** If you save the soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, etc. from staying in motels or hotels, please bring them to church along with the ketchup, taco sauce, mustard and any “take-out” condiments. The Rainbow Girls who are collecting for the Rio Rancho chapter of Blue Star Mothers to include in the packages they send our troops. For more information, contact Storehouse West at 892-2077.



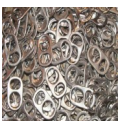
**The Upper Room** This Daily Devotional Guide is available in regular and large print. Copies may be found Sunday mornings on the back table. Be sure to get your copy! Or read online: <http://devotional.upperroom.org/>



**Printer Cartridges** is a fund raiser to support Mission projects. Please place your empty inkjet & laser cartridges in the recycling box found on the back table.



**UPC Labels** for 2 schools in Rio Rancho. There is a large jar for your labels are provided on the back table on Sunday mornings.



**Pull Tabs** Save the pull tabs from your aluminum cans, soup cans, etc. You can put them in a ziplock bag and leave them on the table in the back of the church. For more info call Janet Greger at 867-4832 Presently they will go to the Ronald McDonald House charity.

<b>9 AM Service</b>					
<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>
June 2	Gordon & Wanda Golsan		Judy Ballard	Ron & Jane Komatz	
June 9	Bill & Kay Boss		John Samford	Charlene Brandt	
June 16	Earl & Dottie Hester		Gordon Golsan	Sue Hinchcliffe	
June 23	Jana Siverts, Riley & Bailey		Bryce Hendricks	Lael Wellington	
June 30	Randy & Eileen Sever		Ken Dewbre		
		<b>11 AM Service</b>			
June 2	Nancy Perry-Sebrell	Judy Thomas Rose Meyer	Ron Komatz		
June 9	Holly Benson	Karen Malinka Lisa Isenberger	Bonnie Korngiebel		
June 16	Gloria Graham	Bonnie Korngiebel Nancy Perry-Sebrell	Lisa Isenberger		
June 23	Rose Meyer	Karen Malinka Bonnie Korngiebel	Janet Greger		
June 30	Lisa Isenberger	Gloria Graham Karen Malinka	Judy Thomas		

***With Heartfelt Thanks*** Thank you to the following who provided for the HDUMC Ministries last month.

**9:00 a.m. Service**

Greeters: Bryce & Sara Hendricks, Mike & Linda Bates, Emily Sue Chambers, Sue Hill, Chuck & Mary Lou Schimke

Ushers: Mike & Sandy Fawcett, Trixie Maclay, Glenda Barber, Paul Lewis, Dave Zapf, Ken & Sandy Dewbre

Liturgists: Chuck Schimke, Judy Ballard, Skip Chambers, Randy Severs

**11:00 a.m. Service**

Greeters: Holly Benson, Gloria Graham, Nancy Perry-Sebrell, Rose Meyer

Ushers: Bonnie Korngiebel, Jenny Kottenbrook, Rose Meyer, Lisa Isenberger, Karen Malinka, Gloria Graham, Nancy Perry-Sebrell

Liturgists: Janet Greger, Bonnie Korngiebel, Lisa Isenberger, Ron Komatz

Altar Flowers: Sandy Dewbre, Rey & Norvin Schuman, Judy Thomas

Refreshments: Jan Herrington for birthday cakes!, John & Glynda Samford

*Those named and those not named above, thank you all so much for your continued support.*

# HDUMC BULLETIN BOARD



Don't forget to bring any [trash] glass to church so it can be recycled. Not only does this separated recycle material benefit Rio Rancho, but it helps our planet (albeit in a tiny way). If glass is broken, put in a plastic/paper bag first. Leave in the Sunday School/storage room.



HDUMC's choir is taking a sabbatical for the summer which means that Arlene is on the hunt for Special music. This could mean YOU—solo, duet, trio, musical instrument, even whistling (Dave Zapf, are you out there?). Even a piano solo/duet would fit the bill. If you have musical talent of any sort, won't you consider sharing with those of us who do not? What a glorious way to serve your Lord—and with minimal time invested as well. Sign-up on the back table.



There is another opportunity to serve your Lord during worship—acting as the Liturgist. This is another volunteer service with little time commitment. Think about it. The Liturgist' duty is basically to set up the service for the pastor by calling the congregation to order with a welcome and announcements, a short responsive call to worship and a responsive reading (both printed in the bulletin), and a selected Scripture. That's it—you're done. See Judy Ballard for details.



Vacation Bible School for HDUMC is tentatively scheduled for July 11-13, 2019 from 6-8:00 p.m. Remember last year? How a viable VBS was assembled and presented at virtually the last minute? Just think how much better we can organize the event with adequate advance notice! The kids of this community will surely be the blessed benefactors!

## God Has A Sense Of Humor

**It seems there was a little old church out in the countryside, painted white with a high steeple. On Sunday the pastor noticed the church needed painting. He checked out the Sunday ads and found a paint sale. The next day he went into town and bought a gallon of white paint. He went back to the church and began the job.**

**He finished the first side but discovered he'd used half the paint. Not wanting to go to town, he decided to thin the rest of the paint with a gallon of thinner he found in the shed. It worked out great, he finished the job. That night it rained, rained HARD and when he checked the paint job the next morning, discovered the three sides had all washed away.**

**The pastor looked up into the sky in anguish and cried out, "What shall I do?"**

**A commanding voice came down from the heavens, "Repaint, and never thin again!"**



# HOMESICK

By Charles Kottenbrook

Here I am, back at Walmart, watching and listening. I got a cup of coffee and sat down. A boy asked his mother, "What does homesick mean? Does it mean the house is sick, or is someone is sick of the house?" The mother, a little perplexed and impatient, said, "Ask your Dad when you get home, he seems to know everything." I wouldn't want to go home with them.

So what is homesickness? For me, it is when we feel really lonely and wish we were home. Have you ever been homesick? I can still remember my first bout with homesickness. My parents had taken me to Baylor University in Waco, Tex. They got me settled then drove away. Now, Waco is a long way from a little sawmill town in northern Louisiana. As I stood there and watched them drive away, I had never felt so alone. I had spent nineteen years in the house I was born in. Now, I am all alone hundreds of miles away. I just wanted to run and catch up to the car and get in to go home with my family.

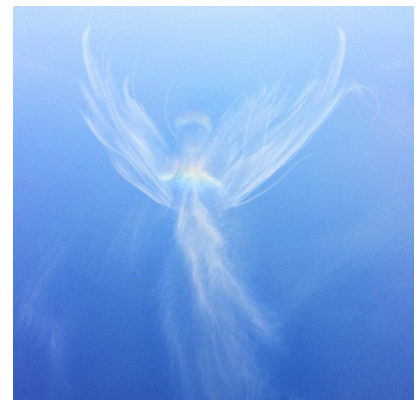
There is really only one cure for homesickness, and that is to take a trip home.

Maybe it's my age, but I'm getting homesick for a home I've never seen. Jesus said in John 14:1-3 that he was going to build a home specifically designed for me. Paul tells us there is going to be a homecoming for us in the future (I Thessalonians 4:16-18). "For the Lord himself will come down from Heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words." (NLT)

There won't be any homesickness there. Notice the phrase, 'together with them in the clouds.' This indicates that all the children of God will be together forever in Heaven. Wow! All will be reunited with spouses, parents, children and grandparents. Imagine seeing your departed loved ones in their new glorified bodies in the presence of the Lord Jesus. What a glorious homecoming.

This same verse tells us that "so shall we ever be with the Lord." One day, we will see Him Who died for us on the cross. We will look at his face. We will be in the hallowed presence of the Lord Jesus Christ

Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! and Amen!



## HIGH DESERT UMC

4200 Meadowlark Lane SE Ste 6  
Rio Rancho, New Mexico 87124  
Office Hours: Tues-Fri 9a.m.-Noon & 1-3 p.m.  
Phone: 505-891-4206; Fax: 505-891-4460  
Email: [highdesertumc@cableone.net](mailto:highdesertumc@cableone.net)

### Church E-Mail Addresses:

<i>Church:</i>	<a href="mailto:highdesertumc@cableone.net">highdesertumc@cableone.net</a>
<i>Pastor Reuben:</i>	<a href="mailto:rnjthomas@msn.com">rnjthomas@msn.com</a>
<i>Jenny Kottenbrook:</i>	<a href="mailto:highdesertumc@cableone.net">highdesertumc@cableone.net</a>
<i>Frank Rotolo</i>	<a href="mailto:frnkrtl@hotmail.com">frnkrtl@hotmail.com</a>
<i>Arlene Westgaard:</i>	<a href="mailto:arleneruth@hotmail.com">arleneruth@hotmail.com</a>
<i>Jeff Pratt, Bus driver:</i>	<a href="mailto:Jeffrey.a.pratt@intel.com">Jeffrey.a.pratt@intel.com</a>
<i>Judy Ballard, Newsletter:</i>	<a href="mailto:highdesertumc@cableone.net">highdesertumc@cableone.net</a> or <a href="mailto:writingwroom@msn.com">writingwroom@msn.com</a> (Judy)



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