

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

June, 2022, Issue 6

As you know, I'm always looking for new mission projects. Well, last December I received a copy of the Annual Report for St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel, New Mexico. The principal is Antonio Trujillo, a former Catholic Priest, who Judy and I got to know when we were serving First UMC in Grants from 2002-2009. St. Joseph School is a Pre-K through 8th grade Catholic School that shares the gospel of hope through faith, academics, culture, environment and service. Since 1923 the bell tower at St. Joseph School has rung to begin and end the day, educating and spreading the gospel of hope to local children; Native Americans from the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna and Hispanics from the local villages of Seboyeta, Cubero and San Fidel.

After reviewing the Annual Report, I felt that this is a worthwhile mission project for High Desert to support. So, our Second Mile Giving in February was designated to St. Joseph. Due to your generosity, we were able to send them \$3,703.

In March, Judy and I stopped by St. Joseph Mission School on our way to Spring Training in Scottsdale. I was very impressed with the school, students, and how Antonio is trying to balance the teaching of reading, writing, and arithmetic with the traditions of the pueblos and the Christian faith. I asked Antonio how High Desert could help St. Joseph in addition to financial support. We discussed several ideas and agreed that members of our Ministry Team would come out on May 10th to meet with the staff and Antonio and review the school.

On May 10, Gordon and Wanda Golsan, Bruce Packard, Glynda Samford, Randy Sever and I made the one-hour trip to San Fidel. We toured the school and convent across the road, and met with the teachers, staff and students. Antonio shared with us the history of the school, traditions of the Acoma and Laguna Pueblos, needs of the students, and their approach to sharing the Christian faith while maintaining the traditions of the Native American students and providing a quality education to the future leaders of the pueblos and community. I can't speak for the others, but I came away even more excited than before.

Potential projects discussed included: providing schools supplies, books for their library, assistance in the library, substitute teachers, gift cards for students at Christmas, teacher appreciation gifts, physical education programs and games for students, and replacement of the water line from their well to the convent and school.

There is a normal tendency to ask (since we're doing a lot already,) can we take on another big project? And that's a good question. But I tend to not ask "why," but "why not?" If this is God's will, then He will provide the necessary resources and guidance; all things are possible with God. I truly believe that God is calling us to help St. Joseph, and I am going to give this project my full support. I invite those interested in this mission to give me a call and join us. We can make a difference for the Lord and students at St. Joseph Mission School.

God Bless, Reuben

Update on Covid Safe Practices

Along with the leadership team, I wanted to thank you for your help during the last two years. Yes, COVID started a little over two years ago, and you were a big part of helping us reopen and stay open. With your help (and yes, some luck), we had no outbreaks in the church. That had to do with your willingness to wear masks, social distance, get vaccinated, and probably, the hardest of all, accepting changes to the service. Truly, we could not have done it without you.

Since the last wave of Omicron hit, you have noticed the gradual reintroduction of traditional worship practices, like singing, coffee, removing mask requirements, and more. Unfortunately, COVID is still with us, but because of the high rate of vaccination and people being infected, it appears that we are finally seeing less severe disease. While we will probably need to learn to live with some level of COVID around us, we hope to that it will become more like the influenza virus, while potentially serious, not life threatening like we saw in the beginning of the pandemic.

As of the last Sunday of May, you will see the hymnals and Bibles returning to the sanctuary.

While this completes our return to normal services, the medical community is still learning new things about this new disease. For example, medical experts can only determine the best vaccine schedule with time and experience. Sorry, there is no shortcut to knowing the proper schedule. Likewise, COVID has been full of surprises. No one can know if it will or will not come back, but we are currently in a good place.

Going forward, the Boy Scouts say it best, “be prepared.” Stay informed as new COVID information becomes available. Specifically, is a new variant causing an increase in hospitalizations or mortality? And, are there changes to vaccines or schedules? Of course, we will continue to monitor this and would reimplement service changes only if necessary.

Once again, thank you for your support during the last two years. We love having you worship with us, so please stay safe.

Bruce Packard, MD, MPH

Angels Among Us - Office Volunteers:

Linnette Carlson, Emily Sue Chambers, and Joanne Claybrook

Did you ever wonder how the worship bulletins get done in preparation for Sunday morning? ... And how everything else gets done?!

Every Wednesday Linnette, Emily Sue and Joanne volunteer hours of their time in the church office. They send out weekly emails, record attendance, handle ordering supplies, keep the machines running, and so much more. They copy, sort, fold, and insert the bulletins, making sure everything is in order. And that’s not all! When they’re done with that task, there’s always something else that needs doing. They get the coffee pot set up and ready to go for Sunday morning. They copy, fold, and staple the newsletters once a month. They handle any mailings that need to be completed. There’s probably LOTS more that hasn’t even been mentioned here.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

On Sunday May 15, 30 of our congregation enjoyed a great afternoon at an Isotopes baseball game where the Isotopes defeated the Sugar Land Cowboys 4-3. We had excellent seats in the shade and wonderful fellowship. Special thanks to Linn Carlson for driving the Church Bus.

Our next baseball outing is scheduled for the last Sunday of the season, September 18 at 1:35 pm. The Isotopes will be playing the Oklahoma City Dodgers. For this game, it will be Mariachi Theme

Day with the first 3,000 fans receiving a free Mariachi Jersey. We have reserved 45 tickets in Section 115, in the shade!



Take me out to the ballgame.



Cheering on the Isotopes

Wednesday, June 8th at Coronado Historic Site in Bernalillo, a walking tour starting at 11:00 a.m. This 'living history' lesson lasts about an hour. We will need to know how many will ride the bus. Watch for a sign-up sheet. Maps to the Monument Site (approx. 20 miles from church) will be available.

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

JUNE SECOND MILE GIVING – Gift Cards for Teachers

Our Second Mile Giving for June will go towards the purchase of Gifts Cards for Teachers. Our teachers do an outstanding job in teaching, nurturing and caring for our children. And especially over the past two years, they have gone beyond the extra mile to reach out and be there for the children. They have been patient, creative and energetic as they have explored new technology and online teaching. They definitely deserve our appreciation and thanks. Unfortunately, there are never enough funds, and many teachers have to use their own money to purchase supplies for their classroom. We will present the teachers associated with High Desert their cards in July so that they can prepare for the start of the school year in August. If you would like to contribute to this ministry supporting our teachers, please mark "Gift Cards for Teachers" on the memo line of your check, payable to the church. Thank you.

Words that should end with 'Amen':

"We can do great things for the Lord if we are willing to do little things for others."

If you have a potent, pithy adage or favorite Bible verse that 'speaks' to you, why not share it in this space? I'd like this to be an ongoing feature—but I need you to send me some of your favorite quips to do that! Judy Ballard at writingwroom@msn.com or at church!

Walk to Emmaus

Thank you to Wanda Giovengo, Beckie Kim, Ron Komatz, and Paul Lewis for leading our recent Emmaus Sunday. Each one shared so positively about the blessings they experienced when they attended this three-day spiritual retreat. If you would like more information about the Walk to Emmaus, please see Linnette Carlson, or Pastor Reuben. The next Men's Walk is scheduled for August 4-7, 2022, and the next Women's Walk will take place on September 8-11, 2022. Linnette is involved in leadership for these Walks. Prayerfully consider strengthening your walk with the Lord by participating.

(Note: there is almost no actual walking involved, this is a spiritual walk, not a physical walk.)

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Several of our church family have children and grandchildren graduating high school and college this spring. High Desert UMC honored them with the gift of a Bible and a devotional book.

Congratulations to:

Bailey Siverts, son of Jana and Lynn Siverts, Rio Rancho High

Lily Smotherman, daughter of Laurie and Gary Smothermon, and granddaughter of Ron and Juanita Smotherman, Cleveland High

Dylan Smotherman, son of Laurie and Gary Smothermon, and grandson of Ron and Juanita Smothermon, Cleveland High

Annika Gustafson, granddaughter of Ron and Jane Komatz, granddaughter of Ron and Jane Komatz, Colorado School of Mines

John (Jack) David, grandson of John Hannahs, University of San Antonio

Brittany McDowell, granddaughter of Carolyn McDowell, University of New Mexico

BIBLE STUDIES ANYONE?

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

Monday – 10:00 AM – “Before Amen” by Max Lucado – Led by Francie Larsen

Wednesday – 10:30 AM – Studying James – Led by Judy Ballard

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

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

June 2022

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Bible Study	2 10 AM Women with Purpose 11 AM Fellowship Committee	3 11 AM Food Pantry	4
5 Pentecost Sunday 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	6 10:00 AM Bible Study	7 6 PM Ministry Team Meeting	8 <i>Outing to Coronado Historic Site</i> 10:30 AM Bible Study	9	10	11
12 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	13 10:00 AM Bible Study	14 Annual	15 10:30 AM Bible Study	16 1 PM Food Pantry	17	18 Conference in Las Cruces
19 Fathers' Day 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	20 10:00 AM Bible Study	21 9 AM Food Pantry	22 10:30 AM Bible Study	23	24	25
26 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	30 10:00 AM Bible Study					SS = Sunday School MS = MorningStar

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: Who was Legion of the New Testament? *Judy Ballard*

ANSWER FOR MAY:

Hagar was a female Egyptian servant of Sarah, wife of Abraham. Now, Sarah was barren which caused her great distress. Her solution was to offer Hagar to Abraham for the purpose of providing him a son. But Hagar was mean-spirited and when she conceived, she taunted Sarah unmercifully about her inability to conceive. The end result was Hagar being thrown out into the wilderness. Here, God rescued her and arranged for her to be returned to the household. Ultimately Hagar gave Abraham a son named Ishmael. Abraham was 86 years old. (Gen. 16). Think Hollywood turns out the best plots? Think again.

WOMEN WITH PURPOSE

Saranam: That's a word Women with Purpose (WWP) is familiar with, but usually in tandem with children's birthday bash in a (gift) bag. Ladies, we're changing it up a bit for this month and addressing an adult need, LAUNDRY. (We're not giving up the birthday bags – that will happen later in the year.) We can all agree that laundry is a chore forever with us, no matter the circumstance ... and assistance is forever appreciated as well. So, WWP, start your laundry baskets ... Vroom, Vroom, Vroom! Each of Saranam's incoming ten families in August will receive from us a start for their "home" keeping needs: a quality laundry basket, detergent, softener, dryer sheets, and a bottle of stain treatment. We are pleased to help these ten families get their foothold in a better future. Ladies, won't you please join us?



Care Ministry

You are invited to call or send cards to these members 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	
Wilmoth Chambliss	10700 Fineland Dr. NW #334, Albuquerque, NM	681-0825
Ella Jerome	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	206-4894
Glynda Lester	10301 Golf Course Rd, SE, Albuquerque, NM	719-429-2506



Happy birthday!	Joanne Claybrook	June 5	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Sandra Keller	June 6	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Beckie Kim	June 7	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Rudy Hoffman	June 10	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Judy Ballard	June 10	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Tony Smith	June 11	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Rev. Leslie Barnett	June 12	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Argyle Baukol	June 14	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	John Samford	June 15	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Frank Rotolo	June 17	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Pat Lein	June 18	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Rod Warpole	June 18	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Elizabeth Anderson	June 19	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Natalie Holtgrewe	June 21	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Rev. Ron Komatz	June 22	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Jane Butel	June 23	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Lael Wellington	June 24	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Janet Cram	June 29	Happy birthday!



Ron & Juanita Smothermon	June 2
Patty & John Latter	June 4
Dottie & Earl Hester	June 8
Ron & Jane Komatz	June 9
Dann & Jody Meyer	June 12
Bryce & Sara Hendricks	June 16
Mike & Linda Bates	June 26
Bruce & Lana Packard	June 27

Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

High Desert United Methodist Church

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9AM-Noon
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June, 2022 Edition

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

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for JUNE are:

Friday, June 3rd at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, June 21st at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, June 16th at 1:00 p.m.

June Collection: Pasta Sauce
Contact Mike Fawcett at (715)456-3044
for more information.
