

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

# HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS*

June, 2024, Issue 6

During our discussion of the Book of Nehemiah last Sunday, I asked you to pray over the next couple of weeks and months to determine where God is leading you as an individual and us as a church. What does He want us to do to make a difference for Him here in Rio Rancho and New Mexico? Where is the Spirit leading us? As we discussed on Pentecost, there is power in the Spirit and nothing is impossible when it is done in the name of Jesus Christ. As I noted Sunday, if God wants something done, it will be done.

As I said Sunday, I don't have a clear answer, but I do know that God has put it on my heart that there is something or several things that we could be doing to make a difference for Him. As I enter my seventh year here at High Desert, here are a few thoughts that I have:

1. Enhance our evangelism program by witnessing to the community and bring in more people into the church.
2. Focus on programs that will help each of us grow in our personal relationship with the Lord.

3. Expand our existing mission program, looking for new ways and places to serve. Now I know that some of you are thinking that we are doing too much now. But I totally disagree. Churches that focus outward always grow, while those that focus on their own needs die. Remember that Jesus told us to love our neighbor as ourself.
4. We need to continue our existing ministries to High Desert Methodist Food Pantry, Feed New Mexico Kids, MorningStar, St. Joseph Mission School, Gallup Nazarene Church, Interfaith Bible Center, Haven House, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Gift Basket Ministry, 4Paws Pet Fund, Operations Christmas Child, and Women with Purpose.
5. Find additional churches to partner with.
6. Start a new Bible Study. If you are willing to lead a class, please let me know.
7. Expand our worship services to another retirement facility like MorningStar.
8. Explore ways to reach out to the retirement communities in Rio Rancho.

9. Enhance our music program with more choir members, gospel quartet, etc.
10. Continue to expand our sound and video capacity.
11. Adopt a struggling church in a rural community by providing lay speakers and financial support.
12. Monthly sharing hour with coffee and donuts.
13. Develop support groups.
14. Sponsor an overseas missionary.

Of course, these are just some of my thoughts off the top of my head. What are your thoughts? Where is God leading us? What new programs does He want us to implement? I know that God has plans for us; we just have to walk in faith and see where the Spirit leads us. As I was writing this, I thought about the saying: "If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans." Based on what I wrote above and your input, I hope that God is not laughing, but smiling with approval. Only time will tell.

God Bless. Reuben

## OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Who was Priscilla of the New Testament? Find the answer elsewhere in this issue.

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### ***Bible Studies Available***

*To help us grow spiritually in our personal relationship with Christ, High Desert UMC offers the following Bible studies. Please join one of the following:*

**SUNDAY 10 AM:** Studying the book of Revelation, Topical Bible Studies, Led by Tony Smith.

**MONDAY 10 AM:** *Taking a break for the summer*

**WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM:** *Taking the summer off*

**WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM:** *Taking a break for the summer*

**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](mailto:coraleno@aol.com).

**PODCASTS:** "Footsteps" Available on the church website.

### **WATER FOR GALLUP NAZARENE CHURCH**

Pastor Chris Davis works to meet the needs, both practical and spiritual, of her community in Gallup and the Navajo Nation. Every week, Chris drives through the streets of Gallup to provide food and water to the homeless and those in need. She makes frequent trips out to the Navajo Nation to provide assistance to the residents. With the summer heating up, Chris has a great need for water bottles to distribute. If you would like to support this ministry, you can do so by making a donation to the church and marking "Gallup Water" on the memo line of your check. We will send your contributions to Chris who will purchase the water locally.



## ***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 more information, see Drew Ammons or John Kottenbrook.



## **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. They go beyond the extra mile to reach out and be there for the children. They definitely deserve our appreciation and thanks. Unfortunately, there is never enough funds, and many teachers have to use their own money to purchase supplies for their classroom. We will present the five 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.

## **Mission Work Day - Gallup**

On May 20, a group of three skilled concrete workers from High Desert UMC installed a new sidewalk at the First Nazarene Church of Gallup. Pastor Chris Davis will now have a safer entrance to the church. Four guys from her congregation helped with the heavy hauling.



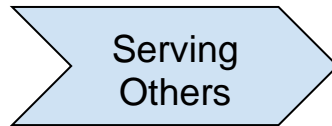
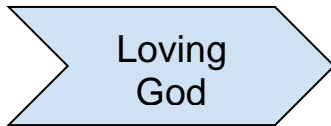
Gordon, Bruce, & Reuben during a hard day of concrete work



Gordon instructing concrete helpers from the Nazarene Church

## Discipleship Corner by Lisa Isenberger

Discipleship involves devoting yourself to the teachings of Jesus to become more like Him. Have you ever noticed that the mission of HDUMC is directly connected to discipleship?



### Examples

- Attend worship regularly
- Join a Bible study
- Establish daily quiet time
- Participate in prayer chain
- Develop a thankful heart

### Examples

- Participate in outreach projects
- Be a greeter or usher
- Help in church office

### Examples

- Go on a mission trip
- Lead a Bible study or worship
- Invite others to church
- Initiate a new outreach effort



Discipleship is a journey of spiritual growth, not a destination. God provided the map, Jesus is the guide, and the Holy Spirit is our navigator. Where are **YOU** along the path?

***John 18:31** Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings."*

## One-Day Mission Trip

Friday, June 7, 2024; 9:00-2:00 at St. Joseph's Mission School

Lunch for workers will be provided by the school.

Tasks: painting, clean-up, carpentry, and assembling playground equipment.

Church bus, or carpooling, available.

There is a signup sheet in the narthex.

# Thank you letter from St. Joseph's Mission School

"Dear Pastor Reuben and members of High Desert Methodist Church,

On behalf of St. Joseph Mission School, I would like to thank you for your contribution of **\$3,215.00** given to us from your faith community. We are deeply grateful for such a generous gift that will continue the work of bringing Jesus to the hearts of our children who attend our school. We are not only appreciative for this donation but the donation of gift cards that were given to our children & teachers this past Christmas and the treats for Easter. I am always humbled by your generosity and deep faith of sharing your blessings with us.

I also want to thank all those members that have been building our decks, pouring cement and putting up fences for our Early Childhood Center. You have done this in the heat, cold and wind without complaint.

Lucinda and I are very touched by each of you and your love for Christ and your mission to go out to all nations and preach the good news in word and ministry. We were so happy to see many of you at our School Feast Day. There you were able to see the children's faith in action as they participated in both our Christian Faith and in their Traditional dances and customs. All for the glory of God.

As I said last year, "as a faith community you are very Franciscan in heart. All of you live the words of St. Francis of Assisi when he told his brothers, "When you preach the Gospel use few words as possible". Your church speaks loud and clear the love of Jesus in what you have done in support and deed for our humble school. We are truly blessed by your love and friendship.

May God's blessings come back a hundredfold to you. You are definitely continuing the work of John Wesley when coming to the New World to work and minister among the Native Americans of this continent.

In Christ,

Antonio Trujillo, Principal"



Young Dancers in their Native Dress on Feast Day



Sidewalk & Deck at St. Joseph's



## **Fellowship Events**

**CHURCH COOKOUT – Fri., May 24**

Record attendance: 110!

Highlight of the evening: A concert by the Duke City Swamp Coolers.



### **July Fellowship Event**

Our next congregational social event is scheduled at The Wheels Museum located 1100 2<sup>nd</sup> Steet, Albuquerque, on July 23, 2024, at 9:30 am. The cost is \$10 each person and includes a 30-minute interactive presentation (with prizes)! The Fellowship Committee will arrange a nearby restaurant in the next few weeks for our lunch. We will meet at 8:45 am at the church with the possibility of using “Benny the Bus” if needed.

### ***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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

## Church Library – Check it Out



Wanting more Bible studies? Ready to dig deeper into God's Word? Our library has books for you! Try the Jesus Calling series by Sarah Young and study *Giving Thanks to God*. Randy Freeze has the Christian study book *God the Deliverer* in which the focus is about God's relationship with ordinary people.

Bible studies in our library are also for specific books of the Bible such as The Acts, Ephesians, and the Parables of Jesus.

Do you have a book in mind that you have enjoyed from our church library? Let us know and we'll suggest it in our next edition.

### ***NEVER HAD IT SUMMED UP LIKE THIS BEFORE***

Why go to Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all".

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!



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*Remember, we continue to need donations of pet food.  
There is a container in the Narthex for your donations.  
Thank you.*

# JUNE 2024

## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	3	4	5 Office Hrs: 9-12	6	7 9-2: Mission Trip to St. Joseph's 11-2 Pantry 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	8
9 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	10	11	12 Office Hrs: 9-12	13 10 AM Emmaus Agape Group	14 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	15
16 <i>Fathers' Day</i> 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	17	18 9 AM -12:00 noon Pantry 6 PM Ministry Team	19 Office Hrs: 9-12	20 1:00-4:00 PM Food Pantry	21 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	22
23 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	24	25	26 Office Hrs: 9-12	27	28 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	29
30 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship						



# Care Ministry

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

<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 Warpole</b>	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	332-9706
<b>Mac Esquibel</b>	4544 Aguila Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-1469
<b>Ella Jerome</b>	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	312-2992
<b>Polly Van Lenten</b>	920 Riverview Dr. SE, Apt 280, Rio Rancho 87124	979-277-4852
<b>Vi Ortega</b>	517 Dartmouth Pl SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106	985-0953
<b>Pat McElwain</b>	4536 Ambrose Alday SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	235-7484
<b>Goldie Buckner</b>	920 Riverview Dr. SE Apt. 205 Rio Rancho, NM 87124	828-0486



John & Patty Latter	June 4
Jim & Joan Bauman	June 5
Earl & Dottie Hester	June 8
Ron & Jane Komatz	June 9
Dann & Jody Meyer	June 12
Bryce & Sara Hendricks	June 16
Sanjay & Dorcas Rauri	June 20
Harry & Frankie Combs	June 21
Ric Speed & Wanda Whittlesey-Jerome	June 23
Mike & Linda Bates	June 26
Bruce & Lana Packard	June 27

Kent Hays	June 1
Del Smart	June 2
Joanne Claybrook	June 5
Sandra Keller	June 6
Sheela Ammons	June 7
Beckie Kim	June 7
Judy Ballard	June 10
Rudy Hoffman	June 10
Tony Smith	June 11
Leslie Barnett	June 12
John Samford	June 15
Deanna Allee	June 15
Steven Hunyady	June 16
Frank Rotolo	June 17
Pat Lein	June 18
Rod Warpole	June 18
Carli Pacheco	June 22
Ron Komatz	June 22
Jane Butel	June 23
Dale Miller	June 24
Janet Cram	June 29

## ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE:

PRISCILLA WAS ONE OF THE FIRST FEMALE  
PREACHERS, AND A REVERED MISSIONARY.  
ALONG WITH HER HUSBAND AQUILA SHE  
WAS A COUNTERPART WITH PAUL.  
(1 CORINTHIANS 16:19)

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## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1201 Golf Course Rd  
P.O. Box 45378  
Rio Rancho, NM 87174

Phone: 505-891-4206

Office Hours: Wednesday 9 AM - Noon

Email: [highdesertumc@outlook.com](mailto:highdesertumc@outlook.com)

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

June, 2024 Newsletter

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## HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

**Distribution dates for June, 2024 are:**

**Friday, June 7, at 11:00 AM**

**Tuesday, June 18, at 9:00 AM**

**Thursday June 20, at 1:00 PM**

**June Collection: Canned Vegetables**

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

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

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