

*"Changing One Life at a Time"*

# HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS*

March 2020,  
Issue 3

Lent is a forty-day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter, excluding Sundays. It is a time of self-examination, repentance and spiritual growth for Christians. As Christians we need to pause every now and then to listen to God and to assess our personal relationship with Him. During Lent this year, I want us to focus on the following questions: "What do I believe? Who is Jesus Christ to me? What is my personal relationship with Him? What must I do to grow closer to Him?" If we are going to grow closer to the Lord and truly experience His presence in our daily lives, then we need to be certain about what we believe.

To help us articulate our belief, each of our worship services includes either a Responsive Reading Apostles' Creed, the most familiar Affirmation of faith that sums up our beliefs as Christians. It is a statement of faith used by both Roman

Catholics and many Protestant churches. It was originally used by the early Christians as preparation for baptism which usually occurred on Easter. While it is not intended to be a complete summary of the Christian doctrine, it is a brief summary about the Trinity, and the person and works of Jesus Christ. While the Apostle's Creed likely took its current form during the 400s, an earlier version, usually called the Old Roman Creed, dates back to the second or early third century. There is even a legend that each of the original apostles contributed to its composition, thus its name.

During Lent this year, we will be studying The Apostles' Creed. We will be using the book *Creed, What Christians Believe and Why* by Adam Hamilton. Each Sunday we will focus on one of the major statements of belief in this traditional

Affirmation of Faith as follows:

March 1 – What Do You Believe?

March 8 – Who Is God?

March 15 – Who Is Jesus Christ?

March 22 – Who Is the Holy Spirit?

March 29 – The Church and the Communion of Saints

April 5 – Palm Sunday – The Forgiveness of Sins

April 12 – Easter – The Resurrection of the Body

*Reuben*



# WOMEN WITH PURPOSE



**Women With Purpose will meet March 3rd<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the church and March 4th<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at Wanda Golsan's**

Women With Purpose (official community outreach program of High Desert United Methodist Church) perpetually seeks new ways to serve, and so it is with our March project. Well, perhaps not altogether new, for this one is riding the shirttails of Feed New Mexico Kids.

Together with the health clerk at Eagle Ridge Middle School, we have identified a possible need that WWP can readily take on – hygiene kits (mostly for students already participating in Feed NM Kids). We will assemble soap, wash cloth, comb, chap stick, non-gender deodorant, and anything else that will easily fit into a gallon zipper plastic bag. The supplies are ready and waiting, so just show up at one of the two WWP meetings. And if you have some ideas for other ways to serve our community, bring those, too!

## NEW MINISTRY

David and Susan Duranty and Arlene Westgaard are starting a ministry for nursing homes. We will sing oldies and hymns. You do not need to be in the choir to join the group. Just come and enjoy singing. Every Tuesday we will sing at Casa Contenta, 4805 Sombrete in Rio Rancho at 1:00 pm. Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday we will sing at Serenity House, 6701 Jack Rabbit Rd., Rio Rancho at 11:00 am. (Barbara Gatzweiler lives there). Please contact Arlene Westgaard at

## MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE SERIES - SHARED BY KEN SCHIERLING

### PSALM 27, VERSE 4

**“One thing have I asked of the Lord that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.”**

In Psalms 27, verse 4, David talks to the Lord and asks the Lord to allow him to dwell in the Lord's house all the days of his life. This should be our prayer to be with God in heaven and behold the beauty that God has prepared for us. This verse inspires me to ask God to lead me in a way that heaven is in my future.

*Ken Schierling*



**Our “Angel Among Us” this month goes out to Keith Witt** who has been a member at HDUMC for about 14 years. You will see Keith in the Choir every week with a wonderful tenor voice, but this past month he has become an “unnoticed angel”. It is easy for all of us to sit and enjoy the wonderful sound system at our new church, but Keith was the one to make all of that happen. He volunteered at least 50 hours and donated many materials to set up our sound system! You will see him every Sunday, so give him a big thank you.

***THANK YOU, KEITH!***



### FROM THE EDITOR:

Hope you all like the new additions to the Newsletter! I would love your feedback and ideas especially book reviews and favorite scriptures”; so please send them to me. You can contact me at [generations4counseling@hotmail.com](mailto:generations4counseling@hotmail.com) or phone 505-331-8894. As you can see above, we now have “Angels Among Us”. We have so many at HDUMC, it is so hard to choose, but choose I will, monthly. Please let me know of members who you feel are angels. Make sure you read the newsletter to find out who is next.

*Francie Larsen*



**Next Deadline: March 26th**

# MARCH

# 2020

## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS End of Life 12:30	2	3 Bible Study 1:30 PM WWP 6 PM at Church	4 Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM WWP 10 AM at Wanda Golsan	5	6 Food Pantry 11AM to 2PM	7
8 Time Change 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS End of Life 12:30	9	10 Bible Study 1:30 PM Team Ministry 6 PM	12 Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM	13	14	15
15 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS End of Life 12:30	17	18 Food Pantry 9 to Noon Bible Study 1:30 PM	19 Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM	20 Food Pantry 1 to 4 PM	21	22
22 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS NM Feed the Kids 2 PM	23	24 Bible Study 1:30 PM Articles due to Francie for Newsletter	25 Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM	26	27 Emmaus Gathering at 6PM at Rio Rancho UMC	28
29 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	30	31				

**Don't Forget!!**

**New Mexico Feed The Kids Project**

**Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2 PM**

**Refreshments, Fun & Friendship**



**BOOK REVIEW BY PASTOR REUBEN THOMAS**

**Next Door Savior** by Max Lucado: In this book, Max notes that there is no person that our lord and Savior Jesus Christ will not touch and there is no place that He will not go to find you. Even though Jesus has gone back to heaven, He never left our neighborhood. Through a series of twenty-one chapters, Max uses various scripture references to stress this. This is an excellent book for someone looking for mini-sermons and devotionals.

**END OF LIFE CONCERNS**

Dates: March 1, 8, and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Time: 12:30 – 2:30 PM

Location: Classroom

Instructors: Rev Mark and Pat Conkling

Lunch is provided.

While it is not a subject we like to discuss, we will not live forever. There are some steps and plans that we can take that will make it easier for our loved ones when our time comes. Over three Sundays in March, this course will discuss the practical and spiritual issues associated with dying. Using an Advance Planning Guide, the following items will be discussed: decisions about life sustaining measures, other documents that spell out your choices, your representative or medical power of attorney, ensuring that medical providers honor your wishes, and discussions with family members. Hospice and their role in palliative care and what you can expect will also be discussed. Of course, your will and financial planning are best discussed with your attorney who will address your legal concerns. Mark and Pat's approach to the spiritual issues focuses on relationships and how to share your faith with loved ones.

If you are interested in this worthwhile course, please sign up at the back table or contact Jenny at the office.

# OUR NEW HOME

## 1201 GOLF COURSE RD



### THE THREE WISE MEN--

Ear Hester, Gordon Golsan, John Samford



### NEW CHURCH MAILING ADDRESS:

**P.O. BOX 45378**  
**RIO RANCHO, NM**  
**87174**

### MANY THANKS!!

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I say again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philipians 4:4-6

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

I would like to thank all those who helped make our move from 4200 Meadowlark Lane to 1201 Golf Course Road so successful. There are so many who put their time and effort into the move that I can't name all of you, but please know how grateful I am. Also, thanks to all who prayed over the past few months and weeks for our move and the future of High Desert. Here are some of my observations from the move:

1. Earl Hester had everything so well planned that we were ahead of schedule.
  2. God always provides the talents and skills needed for the task at hand.
  3. Our congregation is blessed with many talented and dedicated servants.
  4. There's nothing that this church can't do when it puts its mind to it.
  5. The opportunities for this church are unlimited!
- Again, thanks to all of you. God Bless.

*Reuben*

## 2<sup>ND</sup> MILE GIVING CHOICES FOR MARCH – KAIROS AND WALK TO EMMAUS



KAIROS Prison Ministry

March 19<sup>th</sup>– 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Women’s Correctional Facility in Grants, NM

*We are so excited as this will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> KAIROS at the relocated Women’s prison!*

“KAIROS” is a Greek word that is used in the sense of a time set by God for a particular occurrence or “God’s Special Time”. The purpose of Kairos is to establish strong Christian Communities among the populations of correctional institutions. The mission is to bring Christ’s love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families and those who work with them and to assist in incarcerated in the transition to becoming a productive citizen. The KAIROS weekend is similar to the “Walk to Emmaus” and “Cursillo” weekends but conducted inside a prison setting. The weekend is the first step in a spiritual journey for these ladies as team members commit to returning to the prison on a monthly basis to continue to work with them

*Linnette Carlson, Eileen Sever and Arlene Westgaard* will be working this Kairos weekend and would like you to have the opportunity to support this life-changing ministry. You can participate in any of the following ways:

- If you would like to bake **cookies** (Each team member needs to take in **30 dozen**) as cookies are not only given to the 18-24 women participating in the Kairos weekend **BUT ALSO TO EACH AND EVERY WOMAN INCARCERATED AT GRANTS AS WELL AS EACH AND EVERY FACILITY STAFF MEMBER** – a physical demonstration of agape love. Please see Linnette about the *special instructions* related to making cookies. **Cookies due to Linnette, Eileen or Arlene by Tuesday evening 3/17 at the latest!**

Sign up to **pray** for 30 minutes for the women participating in the weekend as well as all the volunteers who are working the weekend. A prayer chain is developed so that from the time we walk into the prison on Thursday until we leave on Sunday afternoon – that we are covered in prayer around the clock and without interruption!

- Financially support the weekend by:
  - 1) making a **financial donation** (Marked “Kairos on the memo line) to help with Linnette, Eileen and Arlene’s fees to work the weekend (**\$300.00 each**) which includes the **expenses to conduct the weekend** (i.e. supplies, hotel rooms for the team for 3 nights, meals are provided Thursday through Sunday for all residents and team, Bibles for residents, etc). Due to institutional regulations and safeguards, commercially purchased food is now required for all meals served to participating residents and team rather than being able to cook the food ourselves. Obviously, this has dramatically increased the cost of conducting a KAIROS weekend.

2) Donate \$5.00 or \$10.00 towards “Meal Tickets” which goes towards providing a meal for one of the prison inmates participating in the weekend. At each meal, the meal ticket with your first name and the city you live in is placed on their placemat – again reminding them that someone who doesn’t know them loves and cares about them.

- If you would like more information about this ministry, please feel free to call or talk with Linnette Carlson at church or call at 450-4152.

*God Bless You and Thank You!*

## • Kairos Brings God's Light into the Darkness of Prison



- The prison environment is a dark place, where prisoners face violence, anger, gangs and loneliness daily.
- Kairos Prison Ministry volunteers’ step into this darkness to hold a 3 ½ day weekend, with the majority of participants made up primarily of negative leaders within the prison. Through talks, discussions and Chapel meditations **prisoners learn that they are worthy of God’s love, light and grace. That no matter who they are or what they have done, God forgives them.**
- When a former negative or gang leader accepts Christ, it can influence the very atmosphere of a prison for the better. As the Kairos Christian community inside a prison grows and begins to gain influence, the incidence of violence often decreases.

*Sources: U.S. Department of Justice, Prison Fellowship, Florida Department of Corrections, The Atlantic (October 2014),*

*Image Source: The Pew Center on the States, 2012*

## WHY WE SERVE PRISONERS

***“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” (Matthew 25:40)***

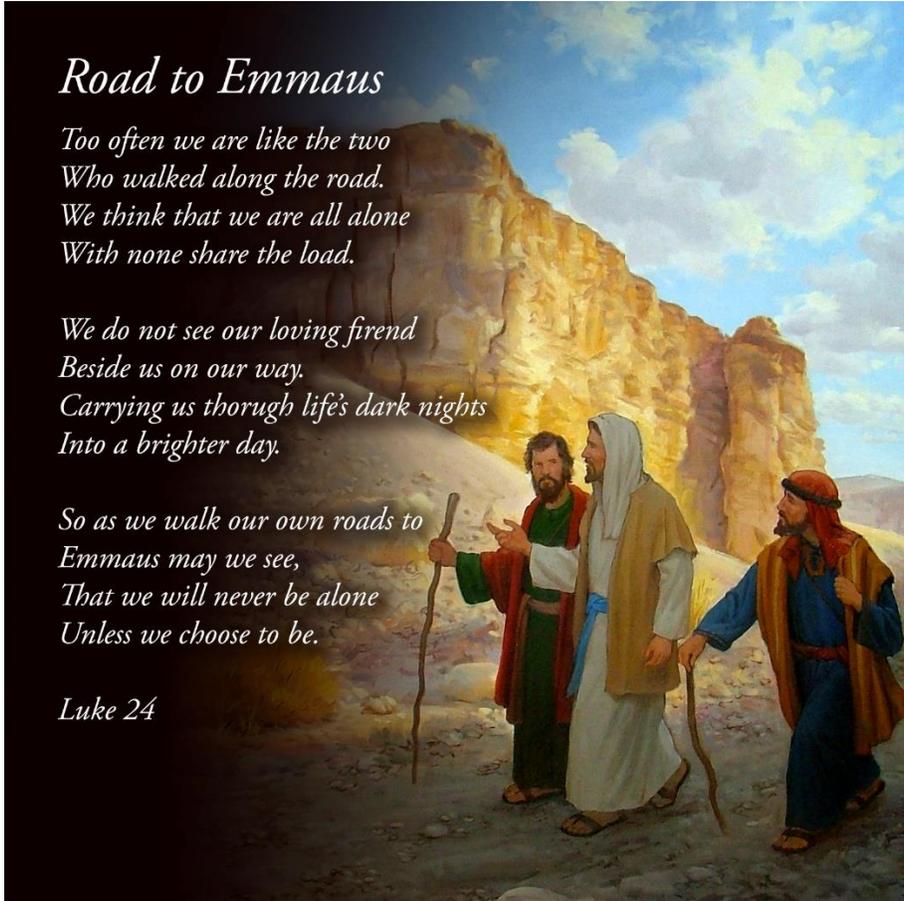
## *Road to Emmaus*

*Too often we are like the two  
Who walked along the road.  
We think that we are all alone  
With none share the load.*

*We do not see our loving friend  
Beside us on our way.  
Carrying us through life's dark nights  
Into a brighter day.*

*So as we walk our own roads to  
Emmaus may we see,  
That we will never be alone  
Unless we choose to be.*

*Luke 24*



“**Walk to Emmaus**” is based on the scripture Luke 24:13-35 which tells of men’s journey on the road to Emmaus and sharing their hearts’ deepest concern about the death of Jesus. They encounter Christ, share a meal and recognize our risen Lord; rushing back to Jerusalem to share the great news. The Walk to Emmaus is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as he is revealed to you through other believers. It is a 72-hour experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation. You will enjoy 3 busy days singing, learning, laughing, praying, worshipping and participating in small groups.

The theme of each talk is God’s Grace, how that grace comes alive in the Christian community, and how it expresses itself in the world. You’ll also discover how grace is real in your life, how you live a life of grace and bringing grace to others.

You are invited to walk with Christ, in a new and different way, for the rest of your life! The **Men’s Walk** is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Bishop Ridge Retreat Center in Santa Fe, NM.

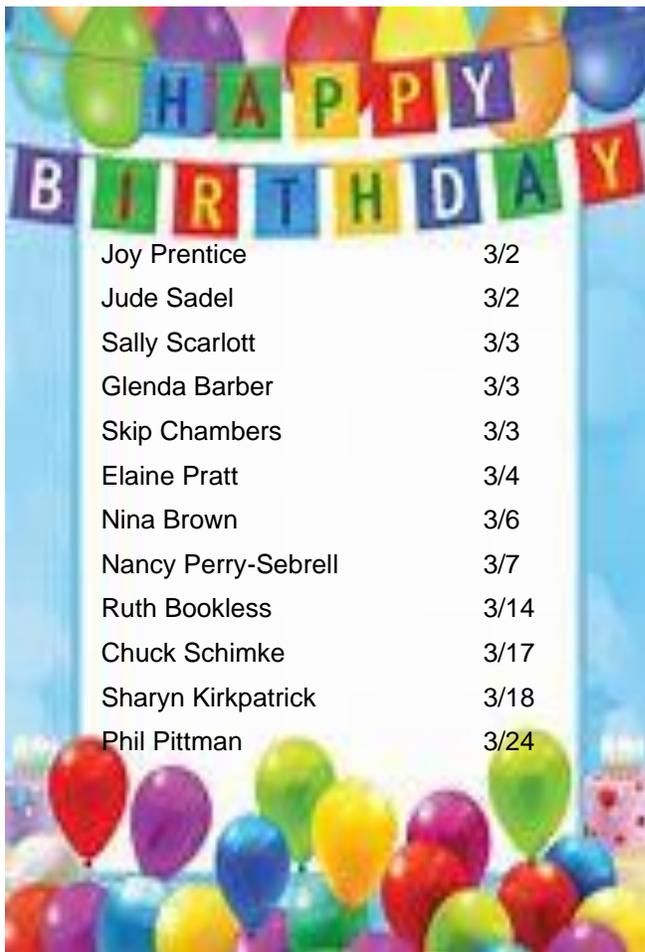
The **Women’s Walk** will be on September 24<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> at Inlow Baptist Camp, Monzano Mountains.

If you would like to talk to someone, have questions or would like an application, please contact Linnette Carlson at 450-4152 to reserve your weekend experience.

# 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>Lorra Garner</b>	Skies Health and Rehab, 9450 McMahon NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114	
<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	220-3839
<b>Rod &amp; Louise Warpole</b>	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	994-9339
<b>Mae Washburn</b>	Revenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120	
<b>Phil Pittman</b>	1000 Riverview Dr SE, #242, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	301-7704
<b>Glen Nesbitt</b>	Advantage Asst Living, 1729 Wellspring Ave SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	
<b>Irma Peter</b>	3011 Southern Blvd., #3, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	951-897-2199
<b>Sheila Arce</b>	4910 Tramway Redge Dr NE #316, Albuquerque, NM 87111	
<b>Jeanne Buchley</b>	The Retreat, 4100 Jackie Rd SE, Rio Rancho NM 87124	
<b>Ione Harrand</b>	948 Tulip Rd. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	994-0741
<b>Barbara Gatzweiler</b>	6071 Jack Rabbit Rd. NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144	994-1964



Birthdays Continued	
Clint Scarlott	3/25
Glen Nesbitt	3/28
Ella Mares	3/30

<b>Charles &amp; Jenny Kottenbrook</b>	3/2/1963
<b>Mark &amp; Lisa Isenberger</b>	3/18/1989
<b>Paul &amp; Shirley Rexroth</b>	3/18/1993
<b>Harold &amp; Judy Sampson</b>	3/27/1971





## Books of the Bible Word Scramble



1. svrbproe \_\_\_\_\_
2. ervleaonit \_\_\_\_\_
3. smtletanaoni \_\_\_\_\_
4. omrnas \_\_\_\_\_
5. gnsesie \_\_\_\_\_
6. bwserhe \_\_\_\_\_
7. eouxsd \_\_\_\_\_
8. haeos \_\_\_\_\_
9. snaaltagi \_\_\_\_\_
10. ojnha \_\_\_\_\_
11. eudtermooynd \_\_\_\_\_
12. rcahahezi \_\_\_\_\_
13. nbuesmr \_\_\_\_\_
14. nsppailiiph \_\_\_\_\_
15. seiephans \_\_\_\_\_
16. oieplmnh \_\_\_\_\_
17. eihemjra \_\_\_\_\_
18. eugjds \_\_\_\_\_
19. hobaaid \_\_\_\_\_
20. hrtsee \_\_\_\_\_

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### Weekly Bible Study: A study subject for everyone!

Presently three groups meet during the week: **Adult Bible Study** (aka Adult Sunday School) comes together at 10:00 a.m. between Services. **Tuesday afternoon Bible Study** meets at 1:30 p.m. to study the OT Women of the Bible. **Wednesday Eve Bible Study** has started an overview on the New Testament; the time will coincide with choir practice.

**9 AM Service**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>
<b>March 1st</b>	John & Glynda Samford	Bryce & Sara Hendricks	Jana Siverts	Charles & Jenny Kottenbrook	Pamela Lee
<b>March 8th</b>	Ken & Wanda Schierling	Earl and Dottie Hester	Ken Dewbre		
<b>March 15th</b>	Gordon & Wanda Golsan	Ken & Sandy Dewbre	Barry Birch		
<b>March 22nd</b>	Dave & Sue Duranty	Mike & Sandie Fawcett	Keith Witt	Harold & Judy Sampson	
<b>March 29th</b>	Del & Francie Larsen	Lael Wellington & Trixie MacLay	Jane Butel		
		<b>11 AM Service</b>			
<b>March 1st</b>	Nancy Perry-Sebrell	Bonnie Korngiebel Karen Malinka	John Kottenbrook		
<b>March 8th</b>	Holly Benson	Rose Meyer Janet Greger	Lisa Isenberger		
<b>March 15th</b>	Gloria Graham	Lisa Isenberger Nancy Perry-Sebrell	Ron Komatz		
<b>March 22nd</b>	Janet Greger	Ron Komatz Karen Malinka	Bonnie Korngiebel		
<b>March 29th</b>	Nancy Perry-Sebrell	Lisa Isenberger Rose Meyer	Janet Greger		

**THANK YOU**

**A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO THE ABOVE 9AM USHERS AND GREETERS THIS PAST MONTH!**

**ALSO, SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:**

**11 AM Ushers and Greeters:** Nancy Perry Sebrell, Holly Benson, Gloria Graham, Janet Greger, Bonnie Korngiebel, Rose Meyer, Lisa Isenberger, Karen Malinka

**Liturgists:** Randy Sever, John Samford, Lisa Isenberger, Tony Smith, Janet Greger, Sandy Dewbre, Bonnie Korngiebel

**Flowers:** The Esplanade Ladies, Bonnie Chalfant, Del & Francie Larsen, Charlene Brandt

**Refreshments:** Del & Francie Larsen, John & Glenda Samford

## **WHAT'S GOIN' ON**

**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.

**Nov. 2019 collection for Meadowlark Methodist Food Pantry:** Items are targeted for you to purchase to help replenish the shelves. Featured this month is: **cereal**. Please place these items in the green barrel found by the back tables. Contact Mike Fawcett at 715-456-3044 for info.

**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. **Don't forget we have glass 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/>

**UPC Labels** for two schools in Rio Rancho. There is a large jar for your labels 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.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Jenny Kottenbrook for being the

**Secretary of HDUMC for TEN YEARS!!**

**We have been so blessed to have her talents and her smiling face to greet us. Words are not enough. Thank you Jenny!**

### **CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESSES:**

Church:	<a href="mailto:highdesertumc@outlook.com">highdesertumc@outlook.com</a>
Pastor Reuben:	<a href="mailto:rnithomas@msn.com">rnithomas@msn.com</a>
Jenny Kottenbrook	<a href="mailto:highdesertumc@cableone.net">highdesertumc@cableone.net</a>
Frank Rotolo	<a href="mailto:frnkrtl@hotmail.com">frnkrtl@hotmail.com</a>
Arlene Westgaard:	<a href="mailto:arlenerruth@hotmail.com">arlenerruth@hotmail.com</a>
Jeff Pratt, Bus Driver:	<a href="mailto:Jeffrey.a.pratt@intel.com">Jeffrey.a.pratt@intel.com</a>
Francie Larsen, Newsletter:	<a href="mailto:highdesertumc@outlook.com">highdesertumc@outlook.com</a> or <a href="mailto:generations4counseling@hotmail.com">generations4counseling@hotmail.com</a>

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# High Desert United Methodist Church

1701 Golf Course Road  
Rio Rancho, NM 87124  
Office Hours: Tues-Fri  
9AM-Noon & 1-3 PM  
Phone: 505-891-4206;  
Fax: 505-891- 4460  
Email:  
highdesertumc@outlook.com

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

"Like" us on Facebook at:

[Facebook.com/HDUMC](https://www.facebook.com/HDUMC)

Or

Follow us on Twitter at:

[Twitter.com/highdesertumc](https://twitter.com/highdesertumc)

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## HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

We take an offering on the first Sunday of every month to benefit the Food Pantry. On Sunday, March 1st a basket will be on the back table to receive your offering. Featured collection for March is: **Cereal**

**Distribution dates for March are:**

**Friday, March 6th. at 11:00 a.m.**

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

**Thursday, March 20th at 1 p.m.**

**NOTICE: The Food Pantry is collecting plastic bags again!**

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