

"Changing One Life at a Time"

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

March 2021, Issue 3

Well, we are halfway through Lent with Easter just around the corner. Lent is a forty-day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter, excluding Sundays. It is a time of self-examination, self-reflection, repentance and spiritual growth for Christians. Now I don't remember much about Lent when I was growing up in the rural South. But as I have grown older and become more active in the church, I recognize that it is a special season in the life of the Church and Christians. It is a time when we ask ourselves: "Who is Jesus Christ to me? What is my personal relationship with Him? What must I do to grow closer to Him?"

Of course, Lent means different things to different people depending on their religious backgrounds. In some cases, individuals give up something during Lent in order to spend more time with the Lord in prayer and Bible reading. In addition to giving up something, you can also share something with others. The Great Commission calls for us to share our faith and to help others

know and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

However, we as a church sometimes pursue Christ's command with some misconceptions. For example, many churches believe that faith sharing is a program of the local church and assign it to a specific committee; when in fact faith sharing is the real ministry and commission of the entire church, every Christian.

Another misconception is that there is only one way or approach for sharing our faith. As each one of us is unique in the eyes of God, so each of us shares our faith in different ways as led by the Holy Spirit. To stereotype a certain model as the only way puts unfortunate limitations on power of the gospel. Also, you don't need special training or a seminary degree. It's your story, your relationship with the Lord, so share it from your heart.

Finally, many believe that faith sharing, bringing people to Jesus Christ, is the sole responsibility of the clergy. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are all called to tell our story, what Jesus means to us personally. More than seventy-five percent of the people who become Christians do so because of the testimony, actions and

encouragement of someone they know and trust. Survey after survey and study after study report that when new church members are asked why they chose their church, they respond by pointing to the influence of people in their social network. Research also indicates that the average church member can identify at least six to eight unchurched friends, family members and associates who live within reasonable distance of their local church.

I know that we are still under restrictions due to COVID-19, but as we hopefully start getting back to some sense of normality and approach Easter Sunday, I encourage you to reach out to those who are not currently attending a church and invite them to join us on Easter morning. We are currently planning three services on Easter: a sunrise service at 6:30 am in the front parking lot, and our regular 9 am and 11 am services. Share the Good News: He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed! See you Sunday.

Reuben

WOMEN WITH PURPOSE

Women With Purpose Meeting –

Thursday, March 4th at 10.m. in the Sanctuary

Once again, WWP is hooking up with Rev. Joanne Landry of the Interfaith Bible Institute in the International Zone of southeast Albuquerque to help feed the hungry in her district—this time with a slight twist. Instead of volunteering to help serve a sit-down meal, we will be preparing 100 **bagged** meals to hand out. . . a regular culinary delight: A can of Vienna sausages, 2 granola bars, apple sauce, fruit (gummy) snacks, gold fish crackers, a small bag of cookies and a moist towelette thrown in for good measure. Rev. Landry says the bagged meals give her and her helpers a well-deserved break from preparing and cleaning up after a regular meal. Way to go, WWP!

JUST DOING OUR THING

Left: Delivering baskets to Shut Ins, Bonnie Korngiebel, Wanda Golsan and Earline Price

Right: Women With Purpose Delivering Baby Bags



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 1 Maundy Thursday Service 6 pm

April 2 Good Friday Service 12 noon
Stations of the Cross

April 4 Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service 6:30 am
Worship Services 9 & 11 am

Come join us as we celebrate the Risen Lord!



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Randy and I want to thank our incredible, loving church family for the cards, calls, texts, emails and especially the wonderful meals you have provided for us these past 2 months. We are so blessed to have such a caring congregation! You have supported us, prayed for us and shown such love to us during this time. My daughter and her family are especially thankful for this congregation. When I became ill, she was unable to be here due to COVID. She was so relieved that we were taken care of from the beginning. Our prayers are that she is able to come to help me after surgery in March.

I look forward to the day that I can once again attend church, play the piano, sing in the choir, and hug each one of you! Thank you so very much!!

Randy and Eileen Sever and family

AN INSIDE LOOK AT YOUR HDUMC FOOD PANTRY

Since the start of the COVID pandemic, we have had to make many fundamental changes to our process of delivering food to those less fortunate in our community.

Many of our congregation have volunteered at the food pantry over the years and I wanted to give our non-volunteer members a fresh look at our revised processes that allow us to keep staff and clients safe.

We receive food items delivered regularly from Road Runner Food Bank after we place the order online for either purchased items or free commodities (TEFAP) The Emergency Food Assistance Program. Most items fall under the category as free goods; we pay for very few items during the month.

Our goal is to order products that allow us to provide a well-balanced, nutritious offering to our clients. This includes dairy, cereal, fruits, vegetables, and protein.

Unfortunately, we do not have a voice in the products we receive as free goods, so we accept what they have available and set the “menu” from the products on our shelves.

The COVID-safe practices that have been put in place include mandatory masks, social-distancing and direct deliveries to the client vehicles and for the most part, these changes have been well-accepted by everyone. Where we used to allow the clients into the pantry to “shop”, we now pack up the full menu we have available and everyone gets the same food items for that month delivered to their vehicle.

We still must follow the mandate of Road Runner Food Bank and register everyone annually, but once registered during normal distribution, we just need a few minutes to verify residential and financial compliance which allows us to minimize social contact with staff.

We are seeing regular increases in client participation each month as COVID continues and with the support of High Desert United Methodist Church, our volunteers hope to serve those in need for the long-term.

Thank you to all who actively participate and support the pantry!

Michael Fawcett, Co-Director

BIBLE STUDIES ANYONE??

Sundays, 10 AM, Studying the Gospel of John, Led by Tony Smith

Mondays, 10 AM, “The Parables of Jesus” (DVDs). Led by Francie Larsen

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM, “The Disciple Peter”, Led by Judy Ballard

Wednesdays, 5:30 PM, Discussing Galatians, Led by Pastor Reuben

FAIR WINDS BIBLE STUDY

Since March of 2020 everyone has been affected by COVID-19. All of us have had to curtail any interactions with strangers, friends and even family. Those members of our church who live at senior care communities have an even stricter environment, being often secluded to their apartments and not seeing others for weeks at a time. Fair Winds Community houses 6 of our members, who we have not seen physically for almost a year. Jade Hogan, Activities Coordinator at Fair Winds, has recently performed a survey with the residents at the Community asking when the COVID restrictions are lessened what activities they would like. One of the most frequent requests was for Bible Studies. Calls were made to our members at Fair Winds asking if they were interested in a pre-recorded bible study on Galatians that they could do on their own and four were interested. Jade Hogan volunteered to physically get the information to the residents, stating she felt a bible study would be such a great thing for them. All four of them were allowed to meet in Pat McMillan's apartment and they actually went through the six weeks in about a week. Pat has now purchased another DVD bible study called "Believing God" It is ten weeks. They are on fire! We have not seen them for about a year, so Pat provided pictures of their group. Way to go ladies!



Left to Right: Dannye Bristow, Tommie Kemp and Lucille Few



Left to Right: Pat McMillan, Dannye Bristow, and Lucille Few

BIBLE FUN AT HOME:

Bible stories, crafts, and science experiments are available on our website under Kids Activities (highdesertumc.org). Please share with your grandchildren and others. Thank you to Judy Thomas, Jody Meyer and Emily Sue Chambers for their hard work.



NEW MEXICO FEED THE KIDS

Dear Church Family,

This is a thank-you letter for your support of one of our important and busy ministries--
Feed New Mexico Kids!

As of our last count, since August we have provided over 1,100 bags of food for students in Rio Rancho who are food challenged. These bags which contain eleven different easy-to-open food items can mean the difference between a child going hungry over the weekend or not. Over 2,000 calories and 45 grams of protein are crammed into a gallon bag along with napkins, spoons, and a motivational bookmark. All food items are easily opened and easily prepared. We also include information about our food bank and have gained clients from our community.

Preparing these bags has been especially challenging during the pandemic. Once a month a small group of us put on our masks, show up at church and march around the tables and fill bags. We have our "boxers and tapers" who fill cardboard boxes, tape them shut, label and date them and stack them to await distribution. The very caring and dedicated counselors from Lincoln Middle School and Vista Grande Elementary School swing by each month to haul our gifts of food to the schools and make sure they land in the hands of those students who need them. (Recently the counselor from one school told us how one little boy sought her out the very first day of school, even though school was online and students were not on campus, and pleaded for his bag of food). The counselors have been creative and determined to see that their students have the weekend packs.

High Desert United Methodist Church has supported this ministry for almost two years. Feed New Mexico Kids is under the umbrella of Women With Purpose but the entire congregation has caught a vision for our desire to feed the hungry in Jesus' name and has given monies, food items and time. Of course, the need for food has grown but the giving and support of the congregation has grown as well. At this time we send out 200 food packs a month. Our prayer is that if the need increases, we can fill the gap.

Please know you are making a difference to many families in our community.
THANK YOU!

Wanda Golsan

P.S. After writing this note, we received word that yet another school needs our help! We will step up with 20 additional bags each month.

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



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

ANSWER FOR FEBRUARY: Who was *Mathias* of the Old Testament?

Matthias was the chosen replacement for Judas Iscariot.

“Therefore, we must select one of those who have accompanied us during the whole time the Lord Jesus lived among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when Jesus was taken from us. This person must become along with us a witness to his resurrection.” So they nominated two: Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.

They prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s deepest thoughts and desires. Show us clearly which one you have chosen from among these two to take the place of this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned away to go to his own place.” When they cast lots, the lot fell on Matthias. He was added to the eleven apostles. Acts 1:21-26.

MARCH SECOND MILE GIVING

UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF

Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the United Methodist Church extends loving care to suffering people throughout the world; currently working in more than 80 countries worldwide including the United States. UMCOR works in partnership with United Methodist Churches and other local partners to address immediate relief and achieve sustainable recovery. The mission of UMCOR is grounded in the teachings of Jesus Christ and seeks to alleviate human suffering – whether caused by war, conflict or natural disaster, with open hearts and minds to all people.

UMCOR programs seek to alleviate human suffering by providing:

1. Relief, response, and long-term recovery grants when disasters overwhelm a community’s resources and ability to recover on their own.
2. Technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development.

UMCOR is usually one of the first relief agencies to arrive at a disaster. Almost every dollar donated goes directly to relief projects for natural disasters. If you would like to make a contribution to this worthwhile ministry, please note “UMCOR” on the memo line of your check.



Our “Angel Among Us” this month goes out to Guy Brister! This month we celebrate an angel unknown to many. Guy is the person who cleans and keeps our church as immaculate as it is. He not only cleans and disinfects it, but he also takes responsibility for purchasing and providing the cleaning supplies and even the plants. Often Guy will work his night shift at Walmart and come to the church after to clean. He moved here from California to be closer to his mother Lois, who is a member of our church; and what a blessing it has been for our church! **THANK YOU, Guy for all you do!**



UPDATE FROM THE EDITOR:

Luck of the Irish to you! I hope you get to see the FriendShop Book Store. It is really worth the trip. And it might help with “cabin fever”. Don’t forget Daylight Savings time on March 14th.

generations4counseling@hotmail.com or phone 505-331-8894.

Francie Larsen

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

DVD BIBLE STUDY

This study is great for a Sunday school class or small group study. The intro of each session takes you to where Jesus taught the parable. Then a New Testament scholar discusses the setting of the parable in history, the meaning of the parable to 1st century people, and why Jesus would use these parables. Then the speaker talks about how it pertains to us. A few of the parables were ones that we have generally passed over in other studies.

New Bible Study
Starting March 8th
6 Weeks
Monday Mornings
10:00 AM at the Church
To Sign Up Contact Francie

March 2021

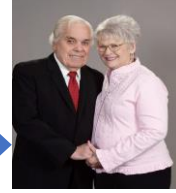


HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Bible Study 10 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	4 Women With Purpose 10:00 AM at the church	5 Food Pantry 11AM to 2PM WORLD DAY OF PRAYER	6
7 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	8 10 AM Bible Study	9 Ministry Team Meeting 6 PM	10 Bible Study 10 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	11	12	13
14 Daylight Savings 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS UMCOR Sunday	15 10 AM Bible Study	16 Food Pantry 9 to Noon	17 St Pat's Day Bible Study 10 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	18 Food Pantry 1 to 4 PM	19	20
21 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	22 10 AM Bible Study	23	24 Bible Study 10 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	25	26	27
28 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS Palm Sunday	29 10 AM Bible Study	30	31 Bible Study 10 AM			

HOW I GOT TO HDUMC . . .



Dave and I moved to New Mexico from New Jersey in August 1997. Dave had recently retired from the Graphic Arts industry and I changed my position as an RN in pharmaceutical research from in-house to regional monitoring. Our new life had begun. Dave became a house husband, and a fantastic one he was. While I traveled during the week, Dave did all the jobs needed for running a home. When I arrived home for the weekend everything was done: cleaning, shopping, bill paying, yard work and laundry. The laundry part is a story for another time. Our weekends were like mini vacations, exploring the beauty of New Mexico.

After renting a home for 14 months it was time to buy our own. We purchased a beautiful home on a mesa, on the westside of Albuquerque. While sitting in the Mortgage Lenders office, the agent stepped out for a minute and Dave proposed. I thought I was dreaming since I just came home from a business trip, late the night before. Romantic, maybe not; Straightforward, yes. That's my Dave.

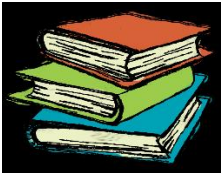
Soon after moving into our new home, I told Dave I wanted to begin attending church again. I was raised Roman Catholic and Dave, Lutheran. I began questioning doctrines of my Catholic faith since college but did nothing about it. We visited Paradise Hills Methodist Church since it was close to home. We were greeted as if we were part of the membership and not visitors. As we studied more deeply the doctrines of the Methodist religion, we knew we found our church family.

We were married by the pastor on April 24, 1999 at a beautiful garden wedding at home. This was our church for the next 4 years. Then we decided to move to the "countryside" of Corrales. Again, we began looking for a church closer to home and began attending High Desert United Methodist Church.

Again, we were greeted as family. As we grew in our faith, we began to participate in church activities. Dave was one of the early members of our newly established food bank, picking up food at a warehouse and setting up for distribution days. He was also part of the original committee that began looking for a new church site as we were outgrowing our space. I became a member of the SPRC and later, Chairperson of the group. There were many other activities which we were part of, but I can no longer recall. You know how that is!

As our church grew and evolved with a change of several pastors, we became who we are today, a church with many ministries. Because of Pastor Reuben we are now serving community needs as we never had before. What a beautiful way to put our faith into practice.

Lorraine Zapf



What do I do with gently used books, recent magazines, jigsaw puzzles, CDs, DVDs and Blu-rays that I no longer want/need?

Consider donating them locally to the "Friends of Libraries and Literacy, Rio Rancho, Inc.

"FOLRR" or "The Friends" is an:

- All-volunteer membership organization
- 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit public charity
- whose mission is to support and promote literacy programs and to expand community involvement with libraries.

After a lot of hard work by dedicated volunteers, the shelves and carts **are full at the new FriendShop Books and More** and it is open!

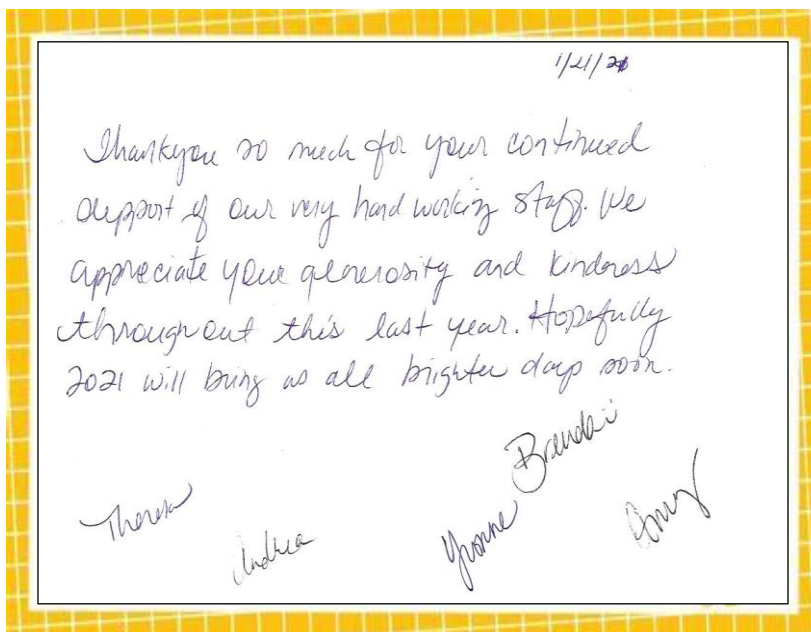
Where is it located?

The new FriendShop is located in the Albertsons/Target center on route 528 in unit J/K that is around the corner from Papa John's Pizza. Their address is 4300 Ridgecrest Drive, #J/K.

Shop hours are 10 AM to 5 PM, Tuesday through Saturday. The best thing about the new site is that it is large enough to have everything out every day, not just once a month. Donations can be dropped off at the shop without an appointment during business hours (10 AM to 5 PM, Tuesday through Saturday).

Your donations **as well as any purchases** that you make at the shop support the non-profits funding priorities:

- Quality literacy programs and library events for all ages, held in New Mexico's Sandoval County Public and School Libraries.
- Literacy programs including Books For Babies and Summer Reading programs for children, teens and adults.



Left: Thank You note from Lovelace Hospital West

Below: Wanda Golsan delivering baskets to Lovelace Hospital West



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.

Ella Jerome	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	206-4894
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 Room 28, Albuquerque, NM 87120	
Mae Washburn	Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr NW, Albq. 87120	
Lorra Garner	Genesis, 9150 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq. 87114	
Norvin Schuman	382 Nicklaus Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-0526
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
Dodie Rossman	The Rio Grande, 2331 Westside Blvd #219, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	300-7499



Happy birthday!	Jude Sadel	3/2	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Joy Prentice	3/2	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Glenda Barber	3/3	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Skip Chambers	3/3	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Sally Scarlott	3/3	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Elaine Pratt	3/4	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Nina Brown	3/6	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Nancy Perry-Sebrell	3/7	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Ruth Bookless	3/14	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Renee Youells	3/15	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Chuck Schimke	3/17	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Phil Pittman	3/24	Happy birthday!
Happy birthday!	Ella Mares	3/30	Happy birthday!



Charles & Jenny Kottenbrook	3/2/1963
Mark & Lisa Isenberger	3/18/1989
Paul & Shirley Rexroth	3/19/1993
Harold & Judy Sampson	3/27/1971

AMAZON SMILE . . .

Do you order from Amazon.com?? ***Did you know that when you order from Amazon, you can automatically generate donations to HDUMC, (at no additional cost to you) when you have selected “High Desert United Methodist Church, Rio Rancho” to be your charity through Amazon Smile? Or you can use your own unique link for HDUMC.***

For more information, see flyer in Narthex or contact the church. When customers click on your unique link, they skip this charity selection process. Instead, they're taken to smile.amazon.com and are automatically asked if they want to support High Desert United Methodist Church.

Your unique charity

link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-5181819> the church office.



GETTING TO KNOW

YOU (by Dottie Hester)

Paul and Leuretta Lewis will celebrate their 60th anniversary on December 24th. They are both from Baltimore, Maryland and met at Hampton University where they both attended college. Paul spent 33 years in the service, first in the Infantry and then as a Quartermaster. He served one year in Korea and twice in Vietnam. His first helicopter accident was in Vietnam where he suffered damage to the left side of his body and burns on his backside from his waist down. Paul spent a year in Walter Reed Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland recovering from injuries. His next helicopter mishap due to helicopter failure landed him on the New Jersey Turnpike with no injuries. Paul and Leuretta were stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland and Fort Dixon, New Jersey where their two girls were born. Their son was born in Birmingham, Georgia, another one of their moves. Paul retired from Kirtland Base in Albuquerque. They brought a house in Rio Rancho and both worked in the school system. We wish Paul a speedy recovery after his slip on the ice and his following hip surgery.



High Desert United Methodist Church

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

We're on the Web!

www.highdesertumc.org

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for March are:

Friday, March 5th 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, March 16th at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, March 18th at 1:00 p.m.

March Collection: Cereal & Small Boxes of Oatmeal
