

*“Changing One Life at a Time”*

## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### *REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS*

March 2022, Issue 3

Hopefully, by the time you read this article the weather is getting warmer and spring is just around the corner. I love spring as the trees and flowers start blossoming, and things all around us come to life. The cold nights and days of winter are behind us and we are able to get outdoors more and enjoy the beautiful weather and scenery that God provides us here in New Mexico.

Spring is also a time when I look forward to baseball practices and the start of another season of Little League. My son and I have already started meeting on Sunday afternoons to practice hitting, fielding and pitching with my grandsons. Judy and I also enjoy going to Phoenix for Spring Training. We have missed the last two years due to the pandemic. Despite the current Major League Baseball lockout, we have already made reservations in hope that the dispute will be resolved and we can enjoy some time at the ballpark in the warm weather, eating hotdogs.

Spring is also an excellent time for spring cleaning, airing out the house and getting rid of all

that stuff, that you really didn't need in the first place, that has accumulated over the past year or longer. At the start of the pandemic in 2020 when we were basically in lockdown and confined to our homes, Judy and I undertook a major spring cleaning of the house and garage, the latter of which really needed it. Now two years later it is time to do it again.

If you are also going to do some spring cleaning and have furniture or household appliances that still work that you want to get rid of, please let me know. About ten years ago, the Albuquerque District opened the Abundant Grace Free Store next door to Grace UMC at 420 San Lorenzo in Southwest Albuquerque. Twice a week they distribute furniture, clothing and household appliances to those in need. Over the years, I have hauled mattresses, couches, and chairs to the apartments of those who are formerly homeless, just released from prison or just barely getting by. I have seen people cry as we brought the furniture in. If you have questions, please contact me; I have been involved with this ministry since its beginning, and even have a key to the building!

In a way, Lent, which begins on March 2, is like spring cleaning and spring training. It is a time in which we can let the fresh air of the Spirit cleanse

us and we can get rid of all those bad habits that are holding us back from growing closer to the Lord. It's also a time when we get in better spiritual shape. 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. It is a time when we ask ourselves: "Who is Jesus Christ to me? How strong is my personal relationship with Him? What must I do to grow closer to Him?"

Like spring cleaning, Lent is an opportunity for a fresh start. It is a time in which we can accept Jesus' opportunity for a new life and a new creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17 states: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" Jesus has promised to give us a fresh start. Why not use the forty days of Lent to grow closer to the Lord. Do some spring cleaning and get rid of those bad habits that are hindering your relationship with the Lord. Happy Cleaning!

*Reuben*

## WOMEN WITH PURPOSE

### Women With Purpose

Thursday, Mar. 3, 2022, 10:00 a.m. HDUMC sanctuary

We are doing DOUBLE DUTY this month! First (postponed from last month due to inclement weather), we once again match Women With Purpose with A Peaceful Habitation. APH is a Christian organization that addresses the needs of women leaving incarceration to rejoin families and communities. Our hands-on task this time is stuffing individual backpacks with needed toiletries and perhaps something frivolous just for the heck of it. Many women leave prison with all their worldly goods jammed into a plastic trash bag. We hope to offer them a bit of dignity upon their re-entry by giving them these personal backpacks. Second, WWP will be filling 100 bags with non-perishable foods to be distributed on the Navajo Reservation near Gallup. A great big THANK YOU goes to our own indomitable spirit Sue Duranty who lovingly sewed up 100 bags for this effort. Rev. Chris Davis of the Compassionate Nazarene Church in Gallup, NM plans to join us. This is an ambitious task and we need lots of willing hands to complete it. Won't you join us? There's even a rumor that sweet treats will be offered when we are all done!

## JUST DOING OUR THING

SPECIAL THANKS GOES OUT TO THE "SWAMP COOLERS"





## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The fellowship Committee has several outings in the works for our congregation. As of now, plans for the following activities are being completed.

**March:** Brunch at Milly's Restaurant in Albuquerque

**April:** Visit Stations of the Cross at St. Francis Cathedral and lunch in Santa Fe.

**May:** Spring baseball at Isotopes Park

**September:** Fall baseball at Isotopes Park

Details will be announced prior to each activity

The Fellowship Committee meets, at the Church, the first Thursday of each month at 11:00 AM immediately following the Women with Purpose meeting. It is our goal to have a Fellowship activity every month. Several opportunities for future activities are currently being developed so **PLEASE STAY TUNED!**

God Bless,  
Ken Dewbre





## SAVE YOUR FORK

Grama's clearing off the table.  
We're full. We sit and sigh.  
Then she says, "Please say your  
fork".  
Dessert time's drawing nigh.

After such an awesome meal  
We can't imagine more.  
But the best is yet to come  
We've got dessert in store.

Our Heavenly Father's just like that.  
He spreads the banquet table  
With all the blessings, the best to us  
We eat as we are able.

His table's spread with such a feast  
Of blessings – all His best –  
Salvation, peace, and healing, too.  
He feeds us - we're so blest.

And then we hear the Savior say,  
"Please save your fork, dear one.  
My best is yet to come your way –  
My heavenly dessert will come."

In heaven I have in store for you  
The best of everything.  
You can't imagine the riches there  
At the wedding banquet of the King.

So, Bride of Christ, please save your  
fork  
In hopes for yet the best.  
And sing his praises every day  
We are and will be blest.

AE 1/23/00

Submitted by Arlene Westgaard

## The Jelly Bean Prayer

**RED**

is for the blood he gave,

**GREEN**

is for the grass he made.

**YELLOW**

is for the sun so bright,

**ORANGE**

is for the edge of the night.

**BLACK**

is for the sins we made,

**WHITE**

is for the grace he gave.

**PURPLE**

is for his hour of sorrow,

**PINK**

is for our new tomorrow.

*An egg full of jelly beans, colorful and sweet,  
is a prayer, is a promise, is a special treat.*

*May the joy of Christ's Resurrection fill  
your heart and bless your life.*

-UNKNOWN





## **24 HOURS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD**

Jesus is believed to have died at the age of 33. The Gospel writers devoted most of their writing to the last three years of His life; with their primary interest on one particular day – the day He was crucified. They believed this 24-hour period changed the world, and each Gospel moves towards that day.

Beginning Thursday evening after sunset and lasting through Friday, Jesus would eat the Last Supper with His disciples; pray in the Garden of Gethsemane; be betrayed and deserted by His friends; be convicted of blasphemy by the religious authorities; be tried and sentenced for insurrection by Pontius Pilate; be tortured by Roman soldiers; and undergo crucifixion, death, and burial. During Lent this year, we will explore the following topics:

March 6 - The Last Supper

March 13 -The Garden of Gethsemane

March 20 - Condemned by the Righteous

March 27 - Jesus, Barabbas, and Pilate

April 3 - The Torture and Humiliation of the King

April 10 – Palm Sunday -The Crucifixion

April 17 – Easter – Do You Hear Him Calling Your Name?

## **BIBLE STUDIES ANYONE?**

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

Monday – 11:00 AM – “The Last Days of Jesus – Led by Francie Larsen

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

Wednesday – 5:30 PM – Studying an overview of the Book of Revelations – Led by Pastor Reuben

Online Studies – Daniel and John – contact Tony Smith at [coraleno@aol.com](mailto:coraleno@aol.com)

## IN THE GARDEN

By C. Austin Miles

The art of meditating on Scripture involves using one's imagination. Instead of simply reading a passage, we must read it, close our eyes, and visualize the scene, perhaps even putting ourselves in the picture. That's what the author of this hymn did.

C. Austin Miles was a pharmacist who began writing gospel songs and eventually became an editor of hymnals and songbooks, as well as a popular music director at camp meetings, conventions, and churches. His hobby was photography, and he found his dark room perfect for developing, not just his photographs, but his devotional life. In its privacy and strange blue glow, Miles could read his Bible in total privacy.

One day in March 1912, while waiting for some film to develop, he opened the Bible to his favorite chapter, John 20, the story of the first Easter. Miles later said: "As I read it that day, I seemed to be part of the scene . . . My hands were resting on the Bible while I stared at the light blue wall. As the light faded, I seemed to be standing at the entrance of a garden, looking down a gently winding path, shaded by olive branches. A woman in white, with head bowed, clasping her throat as if to choke back her sobs, walked slowly into the shadows. It was Mary. As she came to the tomb, upon which she placed her hand, she bent over to look in and hurried away. John, in flowing robe, appeared, looking at the tomb; then came Peter, who entered the tomb, followed slowly by John.

"As they departed, Mary reappeared, leaning her head upon her arm at the tomb. She wept. Turning herself, she saw Jesus standing; so did I. I knew it was He.

"I awakened in full light, gripping my Bible, with muscles tense and nerves vibrating. Under the inspiration of this vision, I wrote as quickly as the words would be formed the poem exactly as it has since appeared. That same evening, I wrote the music."

**"I come to the garden alone, While the dew is still on the roses,  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear.  
The son of God discloses.  
And he walks with me, and he talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own.  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known."**

Taken from "Then Sings My Soul" by Robert J. Morgan

# March 2022



## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 6PM</b> Bible Study 10 AM	3 Women With Purpose 10:00 AM at the church	4 World Day of Prayer Food Pantry 11AM to 2PM	5
6 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS <b>Daylight Savings Time</b>	7 11 AM Bible Study	8 Ministry Team Meeting 6 PM	9 Bible Study 10 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	10	11	12
13 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	14 11 AM Bible Study	15 Food Pantry 9 to Noon	16 Bible Study 10 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	17 <b>St Pat's Day</b> Food Pantry 1 to 4 PM	18	19
20 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	21 11 AM Bible Study	22	23 Bible Study 10 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	24	25	26
27 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	28 11 AM Bible Study	29	30 Bible Study 10 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	31		

# OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



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

**ANSWER FOR FEBRUARY:** To whom did Jesus utter the words of John 3:16 and why is that significant?

Answer: Nicodemus, a Pharisee, ruler of the Jews, came to see Jesus under cover of night. He had many questions for Jesus, and Jesus did not hesitate to satisfy Nicodemus's inquiries. By answering all his questions, Jesus offered Nicodemus an exceptional education in being 'reborn' in the spirit. Jesus' words to Nicodemus includes **John 3:16**.

## 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.



# Thirsty on the Cross

by Max Lucado



And through his  
thirst—through a  
sponge and a jar of  
cheap wine—he leaves  
a final appeal.

**"You can trust me."**

---

## Jesus' final act on earth was intended to win your trust.

This is the final act of Jesus' life. In the concluding measure of his earthly composition, we hear the sounds of a thirsty man.

And through his thirst—through a sponge and a jar of cheap wine—he leaves a final appeal.

*"You can trust me."*

Jesus. Lips cracked and mouth of cotton. Throat so dry he couldn't swallow, and voice so hoarse he could scarcely speak. He is thirsty. To find the last time moisture touched these lips you need to rewind a dozen hours to the meal in the upper room. Since tasting that cup of wine, Jesus has been beaten, spat upon, bruised, and cut. He has been a cross-carrier and sin-bearer, and no liquid has salvaged his throat. He is thirsty.

Why doesn't he do something about it? Couldn't he? Did he not cause jugs of water to be jugs of wine? Did he not make a wall out of the Jordan River and two walls out of the Red Sea? Didn't he, with one word, banish the rain and calm the waves? Doesn't Scripture say that he "turned the desert into pools" (PSALM 107:35 NIV) and "the hard rock into springs" (PSALM 114:8 NIV)?

Did God not say, "I will pour water on him who is thirsty" (ISAIAH. 44:3NKJV)?

If so, why does Jesus endure thirst?

While we are asking this question, add a few more. Why did he grow weary in Samaria (John 4:6), disturbed in Nazareth (Mark 6:6), and angry in the Temple (John 2:15)? Why was he sleepy in the boat on the Sea of Galilee (Mark 4:38), sad at the tomb of Lazarus (John 11:35), and hungry in the wilderness (Matt. 4:2)?

Why? And why did he grow thirsty on the cross?

He didn't have to suffer thirst. At least, not to the level he did. Six hours earlier he'd been offered drink, but he refused it.

They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but *he did not take it*. And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. (Mark 15:22–24 NIV, *italics mine*)

Before the nail was pounded, a drink was offered. Mark says the wine was mixed with myrrh. Matthew described it as wine mixed with gall. Both myrrh and gall contain sedative properties that numb the senses. But Jesus refused them. He refused to be stupefied by the drugs, opting instead to feel the full force of his suffering.

Why? Why did he endure all these feelings? *Because he knew you would feel them too.*

He knew you would be weary, disturbed, and angry. He knew you'd be sleepy, grief-stricken, and hungry. He knew you'd face pain. If not the pain of the body, the pain of the soul ... pain too sharp for any drug. He knew you'd face thirst. If not a thirst for water, at least a thirst for truth, and the truth we glean from the image of a thirsty Christ is—he understands.

And because he understands, we can come to him.

by Max Lucado



\*\*\*\*\*



**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY PARTNERS**  
Thank you to everyone who donated cans of soup for Souper Bowl Sunday. We collected 295 cans packages of soup for the Pantry. A special thank you to St. Stephens Methodist Church who collected and donated 1,418 cans and packages of food for our pantry as well. As you can see above it actually was a "truck load". Well Pastor's truck. Great partnership to feed the hungry.

# 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>Lois Brister</b>	2867 Cripple Creek Drive SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	892-7987
<b>Sheila Arce</b>	4910 Tramway Ridge Dr. NE, #318, Albq. NM 87111	
<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 &amp; Louise Warpole</b>	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	332-9706
<b>Mary Lou Schimke</b>	7927 Jamestown Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114-4498	898-5911
<b>Mac Esquibel</b>	4544 Aguila Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-1469
<b>Sister Barbara Kopecki</b>	3800 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659	
<b>Wilmoth Chambliss</b>	10700 Fineland Dr. NW #334, Albuquerque, NM	681-0825
<b>Carol &amp; Frank Smith</b>	920 Riverview Dr. SE, Apt. 214, Rio Rancho, NM	221-4515
<b>Ella Jerome</b>	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	206-4894



Happy birthday!	Goldie Buckner	3/1	Happy birthday!
	Jude Sadel	3/2	
	Glenda Barber	3/3	
	Skip Chambers	3/3	
	Sally Scarlott	3/3	
	Elaine Pratt	3/4	
	Dan Foley	3/5	
	Nina Brown	3/6	
	Nancy Perry-Sebrell	3/7	
	Ruth Bookless	3/14	
	Renee Youells	3/15	
	Chuck Schimke	3/17	
	Sharyn Kirkpatrick	3/18	
	Rita Riddle	3/19	
	Marion Sanderson	3/21	
	Cynthia Gandham	3/21	
	Phil Pittman	3/24	
	Guy Brister	3/27	
Ella Mares	3/30		

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

Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

---

# High Desert United Methodist Church

1201 Golf Course Road

Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Office Hours: Wednesday

9AM-Noon

Phone: 505-891-4206;

Email:

highdesertumc@outlook.com

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

---

## HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

**Distribution dates for March are:**

**Friday, March 4th 11:00 a.m.**

**Tuesday, March 15th at 9:00 a.m.**

**Thursday, March 17th at 1:00 p.m.**

**March Collection: Canned Fruit**  
**Contact Mike Fawcett at (715)456-3044 for more**  
**information.**

---