

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

March, 2023, Issue 3

One of the best books that I have ever read on missions is entitled *The Hole in Our Gospel* by Richard Stearns. The idea behind it is quite simple; it's basically that being a Christian requires much more than a personal relationship with God. It also entails a public relationship with the world. If your personal faith in Jesus Christ has no positive outward expression, then your faith has a hole in it. Someone once cut out every verse in the Bible that dealt with poverty, injustice, sickness, and oppression, basically missions, over 2,000 verses in the sixty-six books. Guess what? That Bible was full of holes.

I am extremely thankful that High Desert UMC is mission focused. Your continued support for our mission program is greatly appreciated. Through your financial support and volunteering, we are fulfilling Jesus' command in Matthew 25:31-46 where He said: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed

me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." He goes on to state "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me."

This is what missions is all about, reaching out and helping others. Currently, we are doing this through: 1) providing 522 food packages a month to students at five local schools; 2) providing food three times a month to Pantry clients; 3) purchasing \$350-\$400 of food a month for the Interfaith Bible Center which provides meals to 100 homeless people each day; 4) providing gift baskets with snacks to local hospitals, police and fire stations, and others to show our appreciation for their service; 5) providing assistance to Pastor Chris Davis in her outreach to the people of the Navajo Nation; 6) supporting the mission projects of the Women with Purpose, 7) providing coats, gloves, blankets, stocking caps and socks to the homeless; and 8) supporting other programs through our Second Mile Giving such as Haven House, UMCOR, ReadWest, Faith Comes by Hearing, Gift Card for Teachers, Operation Christmas Child, and Heifer International. Thank you for your continued support for these projects!

One of new mission projects which is dear to my heart is St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel, New Mexico. Since 1923 this school has been educating and spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to local children; currently there are 40 students from the Pueblos of Laguna and Acoma and from the local villages of Seboyeta, Cubero and San Fidel. Over the last year, we have provided financial support, scholarships and installed a new 440-foot waterline.

Our mission project this year to St. Joseph Mission School is scheduled for March 13-17 where we will be working along side ten students and two adult sponsors from Elon University in North Carolina. The plan is to provide access to three new portable classrooms for the Early Childhood program by constructing approximately 200 feet of sidewalk. In addition, part of the team will be painting some of the new portable classrooms, the overhang around the chapel and other areas of the campus. In addition, we will be giving music classes to the students. Because of your support, we are making a difference in the lives of others. God Bless, Reuben

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



Our next fellowship outing will be on March 11 to visit St. John's UMC in Albuquerque for their Jazz Vespers worship service. The Jazz Vespers is a unique, meditative worship service that features some of New Mexico's best professional jazz musicians. The service starts at 5 pm. We will leave the church parking lot at 3:45 pm in order to arrive at St. John's by 4:30 pm. The service lasts approximately one and a half hours. St. John's UMC is located at 2626 Arizona Street NE Albuquerque.

Until next time, Ken Dewbre, Fellowship Committee Chairperson

A Trip to Gallup by Gordon and Wanda Golsan

A few days ago we headed west on a cold and windy day to hang out for a few hours with one of our heroes- Rev. Chris Davis in Gallup, New Mexico. We were thrilled to deliver a trunk and backseat full of food for her pantry, warm socks and blankets, some delicious treats of chocolates and cookies, and a generous check. (Thank you Val Forbes for your great help!)

We met Rev. Davis last year through a mutual friend and quickly grew to admire her thirteen-year commitment to meet the needs, both practical and spiritual, to those in her community while she serves Christ. Our admiration grew as we realized this pastor serves consistently in ways we could not.

Many of the folks in her "parish" are Native Americans on the Navajo Reservation and also many who are trying to survive on the streets of Gallup. Chris reaches out to these, God's children, many of whom are on the margins of society, and shows them grace and acceptance on a daily basis. We put some sack lunches together and ventured out across town trying to share God's love to individuals as we handed them a plastic bag filled with food items and water. Several thanked us for the food but wanted a personal moment with Pastor Chris.

We drove by the "wood yard" where stacks of firewood brought by a church group in Oklahoma await delivery to needy people on the Reservation. This is accomplished by Chris' recruiting a trusted man or two to help her load her big truck and go with her as she drives to give this valuable gift to a families who will use the wood for cooking and heating.

While in Gallup we soon became aware of a new dream which has been filling Chris' heart and mind for several months. The church where Chris has spent the last 13 years is being turned into a neighborhood gathering spot where young people can enjoy a safe place to play games, take art and music lessons, and learn to sew. (Some of our Women With Purpose ladies have donated sewing machines and material). We are looking for ways to support this ministry in the days ahead.

We know Pastor Chris will appreciate your prayers as she finds ways to accomplish this new dream.

Discipleship Corner

A new monthly feature by Lisa Isenberger

Bearing Fruit as Disciples

Spiritual Discipleship involves transformation from our old self to a new creation so that we become the people God intended us to be. When we live like disciples, we begin to bear the fruit of the Spirit. The apostle Paul described the fruit of the Spirit as "...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control..." Galatians 5:22-23

Have you ever wondered if there is evidence that you are bearing the fruit of the Spirit? The fruit of the Spirit can be thought of in three groups. Perhaps there is an area you can focus on this month as you walk with Christ to bear fruit as one of His disciples.

- Evidence of Love, Joy, and Peace can be seen in our overall outlook on life. When we spend time with God, He fills our hearts with His love, our souls with joy, and our minds with peace. Love, Joy, and Peace can be increased through a stronger relationship with God.
- Evidence of Patience, Kindness, and Goodness can be seen in our interactions with others. Patience is restraint from anger and revenge; kindness is a gesture of graciousness; and goodness is the opposite of evil. We have opportunities to practice Patience, Kindness, and Goodness every time we interact with others.
- Evidence of Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control can be seen during the difficult seasons of life. Faithfulness allows us to trust God both in good times and bad. Gentleness helps us remain friendly and humble. Self-Control helps us to control selfish impulses. Every trial in life provides the opportunity to improve our faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Prayer - Lord, help me to bear the fruit of the Spirit in my life. Fill me with Your love, joy, and peace so it overflows in my life. Guide me to show patience, kindness, and goodness with others. Strengthen my faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control so that I am able to withstand difficult seasons in life. Thank you for bearing fruit in my life. In Jesus's name, Amen.



Soup-er Bowl Sunday was a Big Success!

Super Bowl Sunday at High Desert was a fun and festive day. As you can see in the photo at left, 300 cans of soup were collected for our High Desert Food Pantry. In addition, a pot luck lunch of tail-gate style food was enjoyed by sports fans wearing jerseys of their favorite professional and college football teams. Isn't it great to have a good time at church?

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.

Walk to Emmaus



The NWNM Community Revival Gathering
Saturday, March 18th, 2023

*At Paradise Hills United Methodist Church
4700 Paradise Hills Blvd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114*

Gathering begins at 11 am potluck will start at 11:30am.

*Pot Luck
Special Worship Presentation
Live Music
Agape Crafts*

This is our Revival Gathering. This will be a time to connect and reconnect with members of our Emmaus Community. Invite a friend, this Gathering is for everyone!

March 2023

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30 Bible Study Office Hours 9 AM–12 Noon 5:30 PM Bible St. & Choir	2 10 AM Women with Purpose 11 AM Fellow- ship Comm.	3 11 AM - 2:00 PM Food Pantry	4
5 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	6 10 AM Bible Study	7	8 10:30 Bible Study Office Hours 9 AM–12 Noon 5:30 PM Bible St. & Choir	9	10	11
12 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship <i>Daylight Savings Time begins</i>	13 10 AM Bible Study FNMK Bagging Mission Trip	14 Mission Trip	15 Office Closed 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir Practice Mission Trip	16 1 PM Food Pantry Mission Trip	17 Mission Trip	18
19 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	20 10 AM Bible Study	21 9 AM Food Pantry	22 10:30 Bible Study Office Hours 9 AM – 12 Noon 5:30 PM Choir Practice	23	24	25
26 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	27 10 AM Bible Study	28	29 10:30 Bible Study Office Hours 9 AM – 12 Noon 5:30 PM Bible St. & Choir	30	31	
		SS = Sunday School MS = MorningStar Worship FNMK = Feed New Mexico Kids				

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: Who were Hananiah, Mishael, and Azeriah?

ANSWER FOR LAST MONTH: Who was Ananias ;

He was a disciple in Damascus that Jesus called to baptize Saul of Tarsus before Saul became Paul. Ananias resisted at first, but Jesus has a way of using his followers as an instrument of His Work. Read the story at Acts 9:10-19.

Bible Studies Available

SUNDAY 10 AM: Studying a LifeGuide Topical Bible Studies, entitled "Meeting God." Led by Tony Smith.

MONDAY 10 AM: Francie Larsen leads a study entitled "The Footsteps of the Savior" by Max Lucado.

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: Our Wednesday morning class, led by Judy Ballard, is studying the Book of Hebrews.

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: A study entitled *Believe, Living the Story of the Bible to Become Like Jesus*. We focus on 30 of the Bible's greatest lessons on living the Christian life.

AT FAIRWINDS: Tony Smith leads a Bible Study at Fairwinds each week.

ONLINE STUDIES: We are currently sending out each week an email from Tony Smith discussing a chapter from the Book of Isaiah. In addition, you can participate in one of Tony's online studies on Daniel, John and Revelation at coraleno@aol.com.

PODCASTS: "Footsteps" Available on church website

GRADUATES

High Desert UMC would like to present a Bible to each High School and College graduate as they begin a new journey in their life. If you have a child or grandchild graduating this spring, please provide the following information to the Church Office: student name. where they are graduating from, parent/grandparent.



LENTEN SERMON SERIES

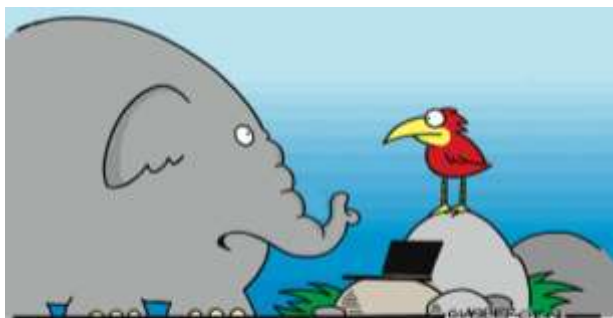
During Lent this year, we are studying the Early Church as described in Acts 2:42-47 in a sermon series entitled "Returning to Our Roots." Each Sunday we discuss one of the characteristics of the Early Church that made it so successful and see how we can apply it here at High Desert. The Early Church was a learning church, a church of fellowship, a praying church, a church that cared, and a worshipping church. Please join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at 9:00 or 11:00 AM, for this discussion, and invite your friends and neighbors.

BASEBALL OUTING

Mark your calendars, we have scheduled our annual spring baseball outing to see the Isotopes play on Sunday May 7 at 1:35 pm. We have reserved 44 box seats in top rows of Section 109 between home plate and third base.



Cost will be \$15.50 per seat. The Isotopes will be playing the Tacoma Rainiers. We will have a sign-up sheet starting in April. The Church Bus will be available for those who need a ride.



"They say an elephant never forgets, but that was before I had so many passwords, user names and PIN numbers!"

Women with Purpose

Thursday, March 2, 2023

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

It's that fun time again, ladies! Our mission is to assemble a bunch of comfort kits for local law enforcement agencies to hand out as they deem necessary. This usually means a child (or children) is at risk in their present environment. Our response is to make the transition away from an unsafe living condition as easy and comforting as possible. We will be putting together Komfort Kits for Kids consisting of handmade 'stuffed' bear, blanket, and a variety of child-size toiletries as well. The receiving departments are Rio Rancho Police Dept., Corrales Police Dept., Sandoval County Sheriff's Dept., and the Gallup Police Dept. NOTICE how the number of participating agencies has grown from One to FOUR!

ADDED BONUS – SPECIAL MUSIC:

Dr. Rev. Michael Pitts will entertain us on his guitar!

You don't want to miss this meeting!

Feed New Mexico Kids

Volunteers gather on the second Monday of each month to bag, box, and distribute bags of food for local school children in need. Last month, 572 bags of food were prepared. Many thanks to all who work on this worthwhile project.



Care Ministry

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

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 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	
Ella Jerome	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	312-2992
Wanda Schierling	921 Purple Aster, Bernalillo, NM 87004	970-398-0501



Mark & Lisa Isenberger	March 18
Paul & Shirley Rexroth	March 19

FREE TO GOOD HOME:
One 4-drawer metal filing cabinet



Goldie Buckner	March 1
Damon Bruce	March 2
Jude Sadel	March 2
Sharon Johnson	March 2
Sally Scarlott	March 3
Skip Chambers	March 3
Glenda Barber	March 3
Elaine Pratt	March 4
Dan Foley	March 6
Nina Brown	March 6
Nancy Perry-Sebrell	March 7
Ruth Bookless	March 14
Chuck Schimke	March 17
Rita Riddle	March 19
Marion Sanderson	March 21
Cynthia Gandham	March 21
Phil Pittman	March 24
Guy Brister	March 27
Ella Mares	March 30
Melissa Bruce	March 31

Words that should end with 'Amen':

He who takes his stand for Christ is not likely to fall for the devil.

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Phone: 505-891-4206

Office Hours: Wednesday 9 AM - Noon

Email: highdesertumc@outlook.com

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

March, 2023 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for March, 2023 are:

Friday, March 3 at 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, March 16 at 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21 at 9:00 a.m.

March Collection: canned fruit

**Contact Mike Fawcett at (715)456-3044
for more information.**
