

"Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives"

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

March, 2024, Issue 3

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 calls 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 Commission under misconceptions. For example, many churches believe that faith-sharing is a program of the local church and assigned to a committee. When in fact faith-sharing is the real ministry and commission of each Christian. Another misconception is that there is only one way or approach for faith-sharing. As each one of us is unique in God's eyes, so each one of us shares our faith in different ways, as led by the Holy Spirit. To assume that a certain model is the only way puts a tragic limitation on the power of the gospel. Also, no special training or degree is needed. It's your story, your personal relationship with Jesus Christ; so, share it from your heart.

We also mistakenly believe that all the people around us have some knowledge of Jesus Christ and the Bible. Recent surveys show that many people, especially youth and young adults, cannot name the four

Gospels, or even name who gave us the Sermon on the Mount. This emphasizes the great need for Christian education and Bible study.

Finally, many believe that faith-sharing, bringing people to Christ, is the sole responsibility of the clergy. However, when Jesus gave us the Great Commission, He was not just talking to pastors, He was speaking to all who follow Him. Each one of us is called to tell our story, what Jesus Christ means to us personally. Telling others about Jesus is harder than giving money, serving in the Pantry, participating on a mission project, singing in the choir, and many other important tasks that are part of the life of the church. But there is a time to speak. Words are important. There comes a time when we must share our faith with others.

More than seventy-five percent of the people who become Christians do so because of the testimony, deeds, and encouragement of someone they know and trust. Survey after survey and study after study report that when new 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 a reasonable distance of their local church.

Each of us is called to spread the gospel by word and deed. Do we fulfill our calling? I firmly believe that we have taken this for granted and need to re-emphasize our mission, our calling. Over the next weeks and months, I hope and pray that you will join me on a journey of faith, a journey of faith-sharing. I ask you help in three areas. First, pray for those you believe need to find Christ and a church home. Pray for guidance on how to approach them. Second, be sensitive to the opportunities around you to share your faith. And finally, invite at least two people to church. There are people in our community who are waiting to hear the good news and wanting to find a church home. May we as a church help them find Christ and a welcoming home. Together we can help build God's kingdom and fulfill our calling in the Great Commission. God Bless.

Reuben

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Who was Ichabod in the Old Testament? Find the answer elsewhere in this issue.

Bible Studies Available

To help us grow spiritually in our personal relationship with Christ, High Desert UMC is offering the following Bible studies this spring. Please join one of the following studies in the classroom.

SUNDAY 10 AM: Studying The Gospel of Luke, Topical Bible Studies, Led by Tony Smith.

MONDAY 10 AM: Studying *The Heaven Academy* by Dr. David Jeremiah, led by Francie Larsen.

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: The Book of Psalms, led by John Kottenbrook.

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: The Bible using "*The Story*" led by Reuben Thomas, in the sanctuary

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.

PODCASTS: "Footsteps" Available on the church website.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



Our March Fellowship Outing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19 at 10 am at the Telephone Museum located at 110 Fourth Avenue NW. This tour will be private for our group only. Cost is \$5 each and the tour lasts between 1.5 to 2 hours with plenty of places to stop and rest on each floor. The building is fully ADA compliant with elevators. There are plenty of places to eat nearby.

Watch for more exciting outings to come! Ken Dewbre, Fellowship Committee Chairperson

Soup-er Bowl Sunday was a Big Success

Soup-er Bowl Sunday at High Desert was a fun and festive day. Thanks to all who contributed approximately 500 cans of soup to the High Desert Methodist Food pantry. And, as you can see in the photo at right, a potluck lunch of tailgate style food was enjoyed by 36 sports fans wearing the jersey of their favorite professional and college football teams. It was a great time of fun and fellowship. Can't wait for next year!



Life Changing Snapshots Provided by High Desert

Some of my heroes are people who do things I cannot or will not do! We at High Desert support some of the work of two people who in my eyes have become heroes. Rev. Joanne Landry and Rev. Chris Davis have both lived over fifteen years in locations that are dangerous where they serve people they see as made in the image of Christ. The people they serve have nothing and yet they give back because of these two models of Christ in action. Wanda and I want to thank you, Church, for allowing us to deliver food you purchase to these heroes. Because of those contacts our lives are enriched.

Snapshots do not tell the entire story but they give you some picture of what we value in life. Snapshot number one happened in Gallup. We were delivering lunch bags to the homeless with Rev. Davis. In these settings I always see more than the primary purpose for being in a strange environment. On one occasion, I watched a young policeman help an inebriated senior citizen to a van to take him to a warm detox. The policeman was talking and helping the senior homeless gentleman with care. What I saw and heard was that he was treating this person as if he were the policeman's grandfather. We could learn. This to me was truly a Christlike act.

Snapshot number two was on the street outside Rev. Joanne Landry's Church. The background: Tensions were high in the neighborhood because after the homeless were kicked out of Albuquerque city parks the homeless had no place to go. Streets in the International Zone, formerly the war zone, of Albuquerque were filling up with homeless. Neighbors were anxious because they felt unsafe. Albuquerque's Mayor had even been to the area a couple of times to solicit Rev. Laundry's help and to provide her with some assistance. Wanda and I show up at Rev. Laundry's when the tension is high in the neighborhood. Because Rev. Landry always treats the homeless with respect, they seem to see regular visitors as safe as well so when we arrived two homeless men left the shopping cart tent and walked to our car while we were unloading. As is my standard practice, I shook hands and greeting them. Immediately, they started right in telling me about a neighbor pulling a gun on them and that they didn't know what to do. I listened. Often that is all people want is a little respect, eye contact and a calm ear. The point is we connected, if only for a moment.

Thank you, because you have given me this snapshot of seeing my life change for a moment and their life also change if only for a moment. Some take away thoughts from these moments that I carry are: Only for the grace of God go I. What courage it must take just to survive on the street. These folks are created in the image of God just as I am. Respect is powerful. If you are involved in our missions program you too develop life changing snapshots.

Thank you! Gordon Golsan

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.



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 support this worthwhile ministry, please mark "UMCOR" on memo line of your check to the church.

Women With Purpose Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 10 AM

This month's gathering will find us assembling 100 sack lunches which Pastor Chris will hand out to folks experiencing food insecurity on the Navajo Reservation and the streets of Gallup. We will also hear about our new ministry focus which will support Locker 505 in Albuquerque..

Come join the special brand of comradery HDUMC Women With Purpose has to offer!

BASEBALL OUTING

We have scheduled our spring Isotopes baseball outing for Sunday April 28 at 1:35 pm. We have reserved 45 box seats in Section 109; cost is \$16.50 per seat. The Isotopes will be playing the Oklahoma City Dodgers. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are interested in attending. The Church Bus will be available for those who need a ride. Please make your payment to the Church and mark "Baseball Outing" on the memo line of your check.



Second Mile Giving Report

Our donations to worthy projects from the past two months were greatly appreciated by the recipients.

In January we collected \$2,644 for the Navajo Relief



Ministry of Rev. Chris Davis at the Nazarene Church in Gallup, NM. Of this amount, \$_____ was spent on warm clothing (hoodies, caps, and gloves) to be distributed to the street people of Gallup and others in need. The remainder of the funds were presented to Pastor

Chris at our February Women With Purpose meeting. She plans to use the funds to start a summer sidewalk ministry to children at a large apartment complex in Gallup.

Pictured above are two grateful recipients of the hoodies we sent to Gallup.

During the month of February, we collected \$1,435 for hoodies for High Schoolers (and Middle Schoolers.) Due to your generosity, we were able to purchase enough hoodies to take a dozen to each High School in Rio Rancho, Bernalillo, Cuba, and Jemez, plus a dozen to each Middle School in Rio Rancho. As a bonus we were also able to take a dozen hoodies to one elementary school, where we knew of a particular need. The staff at each school were most appreciative. One school counselor stated that she had a student who needed a hoodie that very day.

At High Desert, we are so blessed to have such a caring congregation!



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 the following:

Master Sergeant Gary Carter, US Army

Sergeant Major Reginald Daniels, United States Marine Corp, United Arab Emirates

Petty Officer 1st 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, Romania

Captain Brian Koa Yee, United States Air Force

Gunnery Sergeant Jesse Perkins, United States Marines, Bangkok

Captain Shelli Schimke, USAF Intelligence

Lieutenant Kristina Scott, United States Navy, USS Battan in Mediterranean Sea

Lt. Colonel Ryan Stanfill, US Air Force, McConnell AFB, Wichita, Kansas

March

2024

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 11:00 AM Food Pantry 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	2
3 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	4 10 AM Bible Study,	5	6 Office Hrs: 9-12 9:00 Mission Com. 10:30 AM Bible St. 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study	7 10 AM Women with Purpose 11:00 Fellowship Comm.	8 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	9
10 Daylight Sav. Time begins 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	11 10 AM Bible Study 10 AM FNMK Bagging	12 6 Pm Ministry Team	13 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir practice & evening Bible Study	14 10:00 Emmaus Agape Group	15 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	16
17 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	18 10 AM Bible Study	19 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon Food Pantry	20 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible St. 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study	21 1:00 -4:00 PM Food Pantry <i>Women's Walk to Emmaus, through Sunday</i>	22 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	23
24 Palm Sunday 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	25 10 AM Bible Study	26	27 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir (No Bible Study)	28 6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Drama	29 12:00 noon Good Friday Service 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	30
31 EASTER 6:30 AM Sunrise Serv 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.

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
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	21 Purple Aster, Bernalillo, NM 87004	970-398-0501
Polly Van Lenten	920 Riverview Dr. SE, Apt 280, Rio Rancho 87124	979-277-4852
Vi Ortega	517 Dartmouth Pl SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106	985-0953
Pat McElwain	4536 Ambrose Alday SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	235-7484



Drew & Sheela Ammons	March 4
Mark & Lisa Isenberger	March 18
Paul & Shirley Rexroth	March 19



Corrections from February:

Albert Lofton	Feb. 25
Barbara Morgan	Feb. 26
Goldie Buckner	March 1
Jude Sadel	March 2
Damon Bruce	March 2
Sharon Johnson	March 2
Glenda Barber	March 3
Skip Chambers	March 3
Sally Scarlott	March 3
Rusty Dils	March 3
Elaine Pratt	March 4
Dan Foley	March 5
Nina Brown	March 6
Nancy Perry-Sebrell	March 7
Ruth Bookless	March 14
Pat McElwain	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

ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES

IN THE BIBLE:

THE NAME *ICHABOD* IN GREEK MEANS "GLORY DEPARTED", OR "IN GLORIOUS". HIS MOTHER GAVE HIM THIS NAME ON HER DEATHBED. HER HUSBAND, A PRIEST, WAS UNFAITHFUL TO GOD AND TO HIS WIFE, HENCE HIS SON'S DISFAVOR TO THE LORD.

(1 SAMUEL 4)



8

Suggestion Box

First in a series of Judy's Jabber by Judy Ballard

(Hey, if Reuben can Ramble, Judy should be able to Jabber)

Do you know what a Suggestion Box is? Have you ever seen one? Did you know that HDUMC has a suggestion box? Do you know where it is and what its purpose is? Do you know how to use one?

Lets take these questions one by one . . . A suggestion box is a receptacle for ideas—usually solicited; that is, ideas that are asked for from the people involved. It is conveniently stocked with paper and pencil for you to write your brilliant idea down. This carefully hand-crafted suggestion box is mounted on the right side back wall of the sanctuary as you are facing the pulpit. Okay, that's what and where it is.

The purpose of this Suggestion Box is to help the Fellowship Committee plan and carry out fun, social outings for the congregation-at-large. That's you and me. These outings bring fellow Christians together for a fun time of education and/or entertainment. True and lasting friendships are forged this way, by meeting together to share a common interest. Many of the activities we have enjoyed already were initially suggested by members other than the Fellowship Committee.

In other words, The Fellowship Committee is asking for your input. Write down your great idea for a church-wide event and put it in the SUGGESTION BOX. Next time I look in the Suggestion Box I hope to find an idea, and not just someone's gum wrapper.

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.

Women's Walk to Emmaus

Plese pray for our three pilgrims, Cheryl Mason, Wanda Whittlesey-Jerome, and Lou Williams on Thursday, March 21 – Sunday, March 24, as they participate in the Walk to Emmaus. Pray for God's blessings on each of them during this three day spiritual retreat.

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1201 Golf Course Road
Rio Rancho, NM

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- March 24 Palm Sunday
 Worship Services 9 & 11 am
- March 28 Maundy Thursday Service 6 pm
 The Living Last Supper Drama
- March 29 Good Friday Service 12 noon
 The Service of Nails
- March 31 Easter Sunday
 Sunrise Service 6:30 am
 Worship Services 9 & 11 am

Come join us as we celebrate the Risen Lord!



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

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

March, 2024 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for March, 2024 are:

Friday, March 1 at 11:00 AM

Tuesday, March 19, at 9:00 AM

Thursday, March 21, at 1:00 PM

March Collection: Canned Fruits

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

Contact John Samford at (505) 870-0667

for more information.
