

"Changing One Life at a Time"

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

May 2021, Issue 5

As I said on Easter Sunday, Christmas is the most celebrated Christian holiday, but in my opinion, Easter is by far the most important because it defines who we are as

Christians, what we believe and what we are promised. Easter Sunday is always special with the wonderful old hymns of *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*, *Up from the Grave He Arose* and *He Lives*, the celebration of the Resurrection, the fellowship of other believers, and the memory of all the Jesus did for us and continues to do for us.

This Easter was very special since we were able to celebrate it for the first time at our new location. Last year due to COVID-19, we were not able to gather together and had to celebrate it online. There's nothing like being together on Easter morning. And this year was definitely special as we gathered for our first Sunrise Service in the church parking lot. It was a beautiful setting and we were able to all sing, yes even while wearing masks we sang those wonderful hymns! And the special moment for me was as we were singing, *He*

Lives, the sun came up over the Sandia Mountains. What a sight; I will never forget it. Thanks to all the 49 people who got up early to celebrate with us!

Now sometimes the days after Easter seem anti-climactic. We spend the forty days of Lent and Sundays in preparation of Easter. We build up to the day with services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and then it comes and goes. But it should never be that way. As I have said before, Easter should not be celebrated only one day a year, but every day. Easter is not the happy ending to the story; it not an ending at all, but the beginning. It's a beginning, one that we can joyfully experience each and every day because He is still risen! He is always risen! Alleluia!

Because of the Resurrection, we have been freed from the burden of sin and death on our lives. When Jesus walked out of that cold, dark tomb on Easter morning, death was defeated forever. We no longer have to fear the grave, because it is not our final resting place. In John 11:25, Jesus told Martha: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even though they

die, yet shall they live." And in John 14:2-3, Jesus promises: "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you may also be where I am." This is the promise of the Resurrection; this is our assurance as Christians.

We also have the assurance of the forgiveness of our sins. As part of God's amazing plan for salvation and His deep love for each one of us, Jesus took the sins of the world upon His shoulders on the cross at Calvary. Remember what the angel told Joseph in Matthew 1:21: "Mary will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for us; something that we should never, never forget or take for granted. So, live each day as if it is Easter; live it to the fullest and enjoy the love and grace of the Lord.

Reuben

Media Survey Results

A big thank you to everyone who completed the Media Survey. As you know, our church made great progress this last year. We went from only projecting the scripture lesson to projecting the full service and going online. Despite a steep learning curve, our yearlong progress is impressive; however, we can still improve. The Media Team appreciates your thoughtful feedback and is working to incorporate your comments. We hope you already saw some of the changes.

Average responses from the in-person survey ranged from 4.45-4.62 out of 5. Online responses scored slightly lower ranging from 4.39-4.52. In both surveys, music balance was the lowest score. Your written feedback focused on a few things: slide contrast, sound balance and online improvements.

Regarding slide contrast, we switched to white print outlined with black borders. Pastor Reuben's text is in an italicized script, and congregational responses are in a standard print. We are working to find backgrounds that are relevant, interesting and provide good contrast. Ongoing feedback is appreciated.

We know that sound has been an issue. Without getting into much technical detail, we are continuing to work to improve the sound quality. One example of an issue, we switched Reuben's wireless mic because the old mic was plagued by radio interference causing sudden static and drop-out. With the addition of the digital piano, we are working with the pianist to get the proper balance. Once again, ongoing feedback is appreciated.

We thank the online viewers for their participation in our worship service. Typically, 6-10 viewers join online (of course, one viewer may be one or more actual viewees). During the service, we see what goes out but cannot watch it, too. Unique to online viewing, they requested ceiling mics to feel the church atmosphere. Additionally, congregational comments during the sharing of joys and concerns be repeated and a lay reader read the part of the congregational response. Finally, they would like the camera to be dynamic and follow the action in the service. We are pricing ceiling mics and are reviewing camera options.

Hopefully, you have seen progress on the slide and the sound balance. Your continued feedback is important and appreciated. Feel free make any comments to Bruce or Keith after the service. We would especially appreciate it if you would send us an email to HighDesertUMChurch@gmail.com. That way we can track our progress and share your feedback with everyone on the Media Team.

For the online viewers, we are working to install ceiling mics; however, changing the camera work will require more than the purchase of a new camera. Right now, the one person running the sound and slides is fully occupied. We will need new equipment, a redesign of the media booth, and the assistance of a second person to work the camera. Yes, we will need volunteers who have an eye to follow the service activities and an ear to help with sound. With God's help and your support, we can get there. But, like moving to your new church location, it will take a little time, prayer, sharing of hidden talents, and trust in God's plan for High Desert UMC.

Thank you for your comments and keep the feedback coming.

Sincerely,

Your Media Team

God's Prescription for Mother's Day

by [Shari Abbott, Reasons for Hope* Jesus](#) | May 3, 2016

My mother has been with Jesus for more than 12 years. Time definitely has eased the pain of separation, but time has also faded my memories. Circumstances in my life cause me to think about her a lot, to miss her, and to reflect on what a blessing she was to me.

This Mother's Day, in addition to celebrating our mothers who are with us, I want to remind all of us to take the time to remember our mothers (and grandmothers) who dwell only in our hearts.

Let Us Remember

I often write about the importance of remembering God — remembering who He is, what He has done for us, and who we are in Christ. Mother's Day is a special day set apart for remembering our mothers and for calling to mind all that they have done for us, all that they mean to us, and who we are because of them.

Our mothers were an instrument in God's hand to bring us into this world. God knit us together in our mother's womb ([Psalm 139:13](#)) and He placed us into her arms at birth. What a joy and blessing it is for a mother to cradle her newborn child for the first time at birth and then to hold her child's hand throughout life.

That's how God intended it to be. Mothers (and fathers, too) are a gift from God to the child, just as much as a child is a gift from God given to the mother and father. There is a bond in the parent/child relationship that should never be broken. Just as God loves us and gave us spiritual birth, we should honor and love the one who gave us physical birth.

A Mother's Love

The undying love of one's mother is best understood when a daughter becomes a mother herself. Now please don't misunderstand me. Both childless woman and men can understand a mother's love from the love they have received from their own mother. But when a woman becomes a mother and experiences her love for her own child, a deeper understanding of her mother's love blooms.

The love of a mother for her child is the closest thing to the love of God for mankind and especially His love for His children. From the time of conception, there is a oneness between mother and child that is sacred in God's eyes. It is a unity that God intends to last until they are separated by death. Sadly, not all mother and child relationships weather the storms of this life and many are broken. Broken relationships grieve the heart of God and every effort should be made to bring about reconciliation and restoration in family relationships.

God's Prescription for Mother's Day

Remembering our mothers is important and how we remember them is crucial to a loving relationship. We are told to take every thought captive for Jesus ([2 Corinthians 10:5](#)), which tells us that how we remember is an active and willful choice and God expects us to exercise a thought life that glorifies Jesus. How we remember will influence our thoughts, words, and actions and will direct the relationships in our lives.

There is no perfect mother and there is no perfect child. All relationships need good forgivers, ready to give grace to each other. As Christians, we are to love without conditions and with a heart of unselfish desire. We are to give all that we have because, in Christ, we already have all that we need.

There's a saying that our "glass" is either "half-empty" or "half-full." This is meant to illustrate how we choose to live. Do we remember what we should forget? And forget what we should remember? We know that in God's grace our sins are cast into the sea of His forgotten memory....never to be remembered or charged against us. We are to do the same. We are not to keep a record of wrongs ([1 Cor 13:5](#)), but rather to love with the sacrificial love that reflects that of Jesus ([2 Tim 1:17](#), [2 Cor 3:18](#)).

When we start by taking our thoughts captive for Jesus ([2 Cor 10:5](#)) and remembering the love of God and all He has given us, then we can easily choose to remember the wonderful memories that positively influence, grow and direct our lives, and we can forget the events that were less than edifying ([1 Cor 13:5d](#)). When we do that, we live with a “glass” that is more than “half-full” and we find satisfaction in what God has done, and what He is doing in our lives, rather than having a “half-empty glass” that will leave us wanting, striving, and disappointed.

If, like me, your mother has passed on from this life, make Mother’s Day a special day to remember her. Keep the memories of her alive in your heart.

If you still have your mother, give thanks for her presence in your life. Make Mother’s Day a grace-filled day of letting go of life’s little issues and take captive every warm and wonderful memory of mom. Hide those memories in your heart. One day memories will be all you have...and they will be sufficient to fill your glass to overflowing on Mother’s Day. Honor God by honoring your mother, in your mind and with your actions, and the love that God has given you will pour forth in love for others.

***Now abide faith, hope, love, these three;
but the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13)***

BIBLE STUDIES ANYONE??

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

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

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

Wednesdays, 5:30 PM, Studying Philippians, Led by Pastor Reuben

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>.


WOMEN WITH PURPOSE

Women With Purpose Meeting –

Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.

In our ever-expanding search to identify worthy entities, WWP has added a new one to our roster. A Peaceful Habitation (APH, Inc.) addresses the needs of women who are re-entering the community after being incarcerated. The purpose of this organization is to equip these ladies to successfully make that transition--and to become useful citizens with dignity. So once again we will be stuffing twelve (12!) purses with feminine and personal goodies--brushes, combs, scarves, chapsticks, mirrors, nail files, nail clippers, small notepads/pens, etc. (Pssst! If you overhear a remark about our new moniker being 'Women With Purses' don't take it seriously. It's a joke.)

Did you know that there is an additional way you can support HDUMC when you shop online at places - other than AmazonSmile!

 **iGive.com** works like Amazon Smile but includes online retailers that you likely order from frequently; i.e.: Albertsons, Best Buy, Chewy, Costco, Instacart, Kohl's, L.L. Bean, Land's End, Staples, Walgreens, Walmart. Shopping online through the iGive.com website generates donations for HDUMC **at no cost to you.** Most UMC churches in New Mexico are participating in the iGive.com and it is listed at the UMCMarket.org website.

MORE INFORMATION WILL SOON BE OUTLINED IN A CHURCH BULLETIN INSERT!



To 2 local business that have provided support to Feed NM Kids: **Albertson's** and **Costco!** We appreciate their support for the children of Rio Rancho!!

Thank You

Dear HDUMC Friends,

My heartfelt gratitude for the loving concern and encouragement you have shown during our time of grieving the loss of our beloved Bill. Your words of encouragement, acts of support, and sharing of fond memories have brought us comfort, and made us even more grateful for your gift of friendship in our lives. Bill's love is with us still, and we will find peace knowing that God is present and will never leave us.

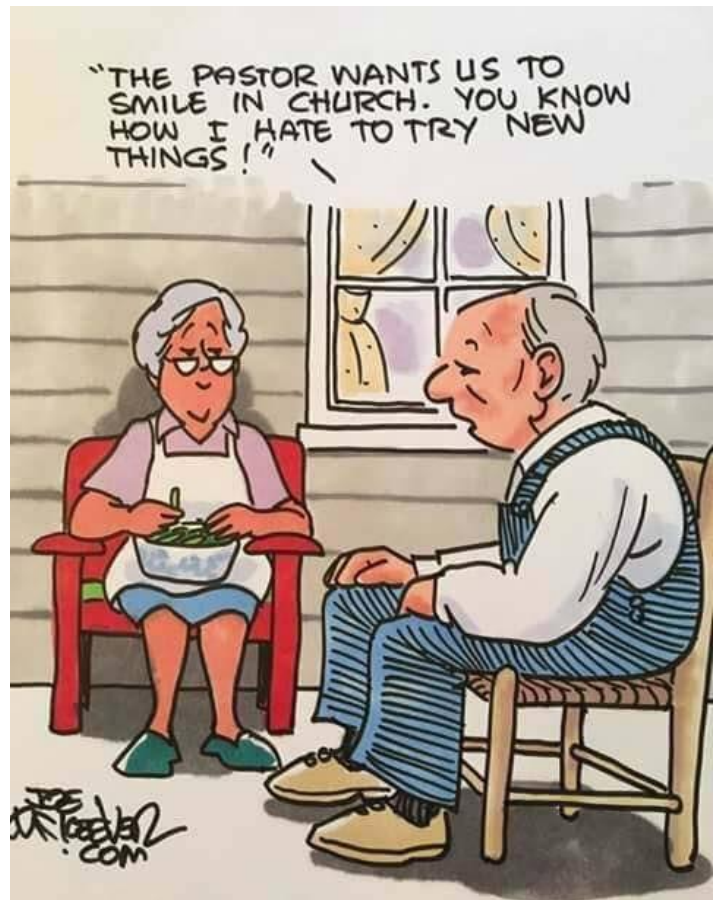
In Christian love,

Joanne Claybrook and Family



Lael Wellington

I. N. R. I.
Jesus (Jesus)
Nazareus of
Rex (Nazareth)
Rex (King) of
Iudaeorum
(the Jews)



May 2021



HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 May Day
2 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	3 10 AM Bible Study	4	5 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	6 National Day of Prayer WWP 10AM	7 May Friendship Day Food Pantry 11AM to 2PM	8
9 MOMs Day 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	10 10 AM Bible Study	11 Ministry Team Meeting 6 PM	12 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	13	14	15
16 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS Comm of Hope	17 10 AM Bible Study	18 Food Pantry 9 to Noon	19 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	20 Food Pantry 1 to 4 PM	21	22
23 Pentecost 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	24 10 AM Bible Study	25	26 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	27	28	29
30 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	31 Memorial Day 10 AM Bible Study					

High Desert United Methodist Church is so fortunate to have FOUR bible studies going weekly. One of which I am leading on Monday Mornings. To be honest, I was hesitant to do so, because I have not led a Bible Study before. I have read my bible throughout many times, but would never believe that I am any sort of expert at all. I purchased a set of DVDs actually for myself and soon a few friends wanted to watch also. Before we knew it we had nine people meeting on Mondays.

We coordinated with the small Bible Study group at Fair Winds, who were also using DVDs for their group. We would trade back and forth and soon we had accumulated about 6 Bible Study series. These Bible Study DVDs are available now for all of you. They are all different approaches and different teachers. A big benefit of a bible study is the camaraderie and interaction with others, but sometimes people don't have the availability of transportation or physical ability to leave their home to attend. This is an alternative. Below is a list of the Studies we have available. If you are interested please contact me at 505-331-8894 or email me at generations4counseling@hotmail.com. I will deliver them to you and also pick them up when you are done. A portable DVD player is also available to check out and it really is easy to use.

Name	Description	Sessions
Joyce Meyer	Study of Galatians	Six
Beth Moore	Believing God	Ten
Max Lucado	Glory Days-Joshua & Jericho	Six
Matt Williams	Parables of Jesus	Six
Rick Warren	What on Earth AM I HERE FOR?	Six
Matt Williams	The Gospel of John	Ten

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE



Quartet minus one: Frank Rotolo, Bruce Packard and Judy Thomas

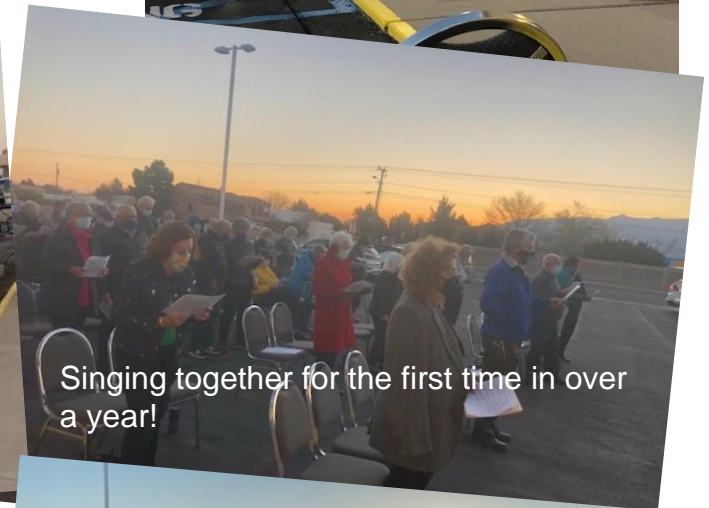
**HE IS
RISEN**



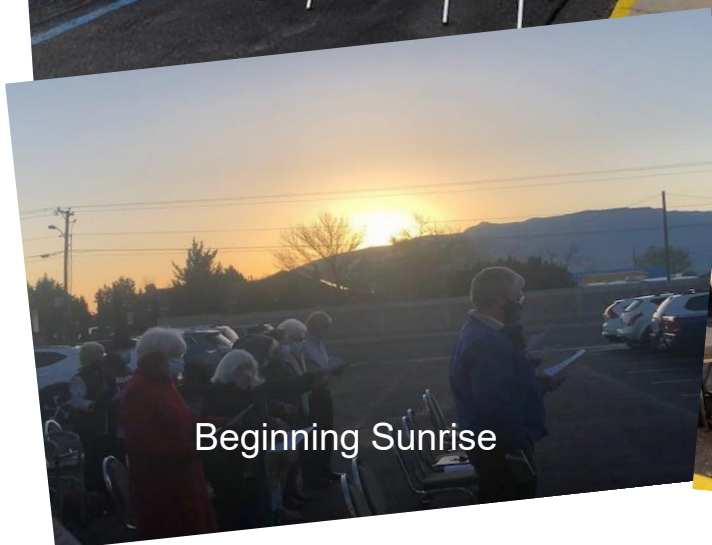
4th of the Quartet, Arlene Westgard and Keith Witt – Special thanks to both of them for the music!



Waiting for the Sunrise



Singing together for the first time in over a year!



Beginning Sunrise



SUNRISE!

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



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

ANSWER FOR APRIL: Who was *Simon of Cyrene* of the New Testament?

Simon of Cyrene was in the wrong place at the wrong time or perhaps he was in the right place at the right time. When Jesus was brought out of Pilate's Praetorium to be marched to his death at Golgotha, a hapless bystander was conscripted into service, that is, forced to carry the heavy cross of Jesus. Simon of Cyrene is mentioned in only two places in the Bible—Matthew 27:32 and Mark 15:22. (each reference is only one sentence)

MAY SECOND MILE GIVING

HAVEN HOUSE

Haven House is the only domestic violence shelter in Sandoval County. It is an eight (8) bedroom shelter that provides temporary housing for thirty-two (32) victims and their children. It provides a welcoming place for women and children who are no longer able to stay in their homes due to unsafe conditions. The location of the home is unknown except to law officials and those who offer assistance and security to people who are subject to physical and mental abuse. Often the victims must leave home quickly and with no notice, so they are not prepared for what comes next.

The services provided by Haven House include emergency shelter, case management, support groups, life-skill classes, legal advocacy, referral to job opportunities, housing and other supportive services, therapeutic counseling for both women and their children, and children's programs.

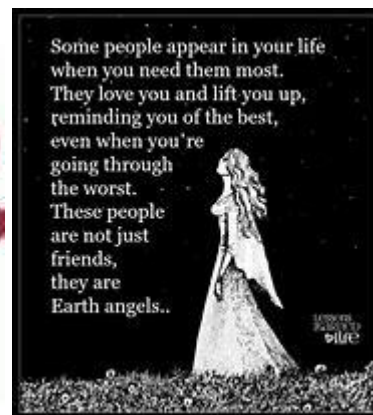
Your contributions will support this worthwhile program and provide needed supplies and services for the health and safety of the women and children who seek help in their hour of need. If you would like to support this ministry please mark "Haven House" on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your support of this local ministry.



Our “Angel Among Us” this month goes out to Sandy Dewbre! There is an angel flitting around and touching our members every day. That angel is Sandy Dewbre. Sandy has been a member of HDUMC for about 12 years and has been part of almost every part of our church. She participated in Women With Purpose in the evenings and has often been an usher, greeter and liturgist. But what she is doing now as the Prayer Chain Coordinator makes such a difference in all our lives. Sandy keeps all the records and distributes the prayer requests, which in itself is daunting. **THANK YOU Sandy, for all you do!**

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people” – 1 Timothy 2:1

I BELIEVE
THERE ARE
angels
AMONG US



UPDATE FROM THE EDITOR:

THE FAIRWINDS GROUP IS BACK!! IT HAS BEEN OVER A YEAR! WE MISSED THEM.

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

Francie Larsen



“Benny the Bus” is Back!! Call Linnette or Jeff Pratt For a Ride



Fair Winds Ladies: Dannye Bristow, Lucille Few, Tommie Kemp & Pat McMillan

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.

Mary Lou Schimke	Suites Rio Vista, 2410 19th St SE, #405B, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	
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	408-722-6482
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	10301 Golf Course Rd NW, #1190, Albuquerque, NM 87114	382-9706
Dodie Rossman	The Rio Grande, 2331 Westside Blvd #219, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	300-7499



Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Jody Meyer	5/1
Joanne Claybrook	5/5
Tommie Kemp	5/5
John Hannahs	5/11
Eugene Anderson	5/11
Dodie Rossman	5/11
Rey Schuman	5/13
Joyce Cowles	5/14
Irma Peter	5/15
Faye Lora	5/16
Christine Lucero	5/16
Norvin Schuman	5/19
Diane Witt	5/19
Bryce Hendricks	5/23
Wanda Schierling	5/31

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!



Wilson & Trixie Maclay	5/1/1987
Bill & Karen Malinka	5/9/1987
John & Glenda Samford	5/30/1969
Randy & Eileen Sever	5/16/1970

Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

HOW I GOT TO HDUMC . . .

Upon retirement from his School Administration career, my husband Charles and I lived in Phoenix for 20 years. I taught my last 11 years there and had just retired too. At that time in our lives, we decided we should move to be near one or the other of our two children. Greg and Barb lived in the Sacramento area and were happy and busy with their Papa Murphy's Take 'n Bake businesses. But our daughter, Jennifer, was a single mom living in Santa Fe and we felt we could be of some benefit to her. We did not want to live in Santa Fe so found a home here in Rio Rancho which would be just a 55-minute drive from our house to hers. That was in April of 2003. The first week in our new home here, we received a post card in the mail inviting us to attend a new church just meeting for the first time that Sunday at the Meadowlark location. It happened to be the day that we set our clocks to 'spring forward' and the woman that Pastor Bob Guido had arranged to be our pianist forgot to do that adjustment on her clocks, so she arrived at the end of the service. No problem because Pastor Ron Komatz was there and led us in singing hymns acapella. There were just over 20 persons in attendance.....my, oh my! How we have grown!! What a blessing to me to find this new home church where everybody knows your name!!

Lael Wellington

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Mark and Lisa Isenberger both originate from the Midwest; Lisa from Ohio and Mark from Illinois. They met while working as engineers at RCA Semiconductor in Findlay, Ohio back in the late 80s.

New Mexico became their forever home in 1990 when they moved to the Albuquerque area to work for Intel Corporation. They both enjoy the opportunities that NM offers for spending time outside enjoying nature while cycling, walking in the bosque, hiking, and/or camping trips in their RV.

Mark "retired" as senior Integration Engineer from Intel in 2015 but has been back at Intel working in a part-time capacity for the past several years. In his free time, he has been taking classes in wood-working and continues to hone in his cooking skills.

Lisa retired from Intel as a Technical Program Manager in 2016 and spent the following year as Operations Excellence lead for Crossroads for Women. She is now pursuing a master's in mechanical engineering as well as certification in Lay Servant Leadership. She enjoys being actively involved in worship, the food pantry, Women with Purpose and is always looking for ways to make a positive impact on others. In her free time, she also enjoys arts and crafts, gardening, and bird watching.

Mark and Lisa have two children (a son in CA and a daughter who is moving from NM to FL), two cats, and one grand-dog. :-)



High Desert United Methodist Church

1201 Golf Course Road
Rio Rancho, NM 87174
Office Hours: Tues-Thu
9AM-Noon & 1-4PM
Phone: 505-891-4206;
Email:
highdesertumc@outlook.com

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

"Like" us on Facebook at:
[Facebook.com/HDUM](https://www.facebook.com/HDUM)

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for May are:

Friday, May 7th - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Tuesday, May 18th – 9am to noon

Thursday, May 20th – 1pm to 4pm

Featured collection for May is: Soups, Canned Stews