

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

May, 2022, Issue 5

I love baseball. Since I grew up in the South, my favorite team is the Atlanta Braves, who by the way, won the World Series. I have had the opportunity to watch Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, and many other great players play this great national pastime. I really enjoy watching the game in person and I've had the privilege to attend games in both the old and new stadiums in Atlanta and San Francisco, the old stadium in San Diego, Coors Field in Denver, Wrigley Field in Chicago and Fenway Park in Boston. In March, Judy and I attended Spring Training in Arizona.

I have also had the privilege of coaching my sons and grandsons. Currently I am coaching my grandson Logan's Little League Team the Pirates with my son Ben. When Logan is up to bat, we have three generations on the basepaths with Ben coaching first base and me coaching third base. And I am looking forward to our baseball outing on May 15 at 1:35 pm when the Isotopes are

playing the Sugar Land Space Cowboys. I hope that you will join us for a fun afternoon.

In a way, the Christian life is like a baseball game even though, of course, it is not mentioned in the Bible. Some aspects of the game of baseball also apply to life. For example, no one is perfect. No player gets a hit every time at bat. No pitcher or team wins every game. The point is we all make mistakes. In baseball when a player strikes out, they know they will have another chance, and so do we in life. We worship and serve a God of second chances.

In addition, hope springs eternal; the start of each season inspires hope. Every team begins the season expecting to win the championship. Every pitch is a new opportunity. When we accept Jesus Christ into our hearts, we get a new start in life. With this new life comes hope. And believe me with the current world situation, we need all the hope that we can get!

Baseball, like life, is a game of high and low points. When you make a great catch or hit a home run, life is good.

But as I noted before, you are not going to get a hit every time, you will strike out, and you will make errors. So, don't let these failures get you down; keep trying.

In Little League, everybody gets to bat and plays the same number of innings. We have players from different backgrounds, sizes and abilities; we are the only team in the league with a girl player. And she is as good or better than most of the boys in league. In the same way, the Church is made up of people from various backgrounds, religious denominations and spiritual gifts. As the body of Christ, we are called to support and encourage each other as a baseball team does.

I have a T-shirt that says "Life Begins with Baseball." Many die-hard baseball fans would agree with that statement, but to me life begins with Jesus Christ. Until you fully accept Him into your heart, and walk with Him each and every day, you are not truly living. Put Jesus first, and let life begin! Play ball! Reuben

Highlights from Holy Week



Maunder Thursday Seder Meal. Many Thanks to Dave and Sue Duranty for organizing and preparing this very informative event!



Easter Sunrise Service



Good Friday Service, Nails of the Cross



Refreshments in Fellowship Hall, Easter morning

It depends whose hands it's in.

A basketball in my hands is worth \$19. A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth \$33 million. It depends whose hands it's in. A baseball in my hands is worth \$6. A baseball in Mark McGwire's hands is worth about \$19 million. A tennis racket is useless in my hands. A tennis racket in Venus Williams' hands is a Championship. A rod in my hands will keep away a wild animal. A rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty sea. A sling shot in my hands is a kid's toy. A sling shot in David's hand is a mighty weapon. Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches. Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in Jesus' hands will feed thousands. Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse. Nails in Jesus Christ's hands will produce salvation for the entire world. As you see now, it depends whose hands it's in. So put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your dreams, your families and your relationship in God's hands because...
It depends whose hands it's in. -
AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Angels Among Us -



Audio Video Crew:

**Warren Herrington,
Bruce Packard, and
Keith Witt**

Without their dedication and expertise, we would not be able to hear or see what's going on in our worship services. They devote countless hours each week to prepare slides for the overhead screen, ensure that microphones work properly, and set up recording equipment in preparation for Sunday mornings. During Holy Week, they went the extra mile with all five services, including arriving before 6 AM on Easter morning!

Getting to Know Each Other

By Dottie Hester

We are glad to welcome Dirk and Marion Sanderson at HDUMC! They recently moved to Rio Rancho from Shreveport, Louisiana where Dirk was an engineering manager. They have two sons, Benjamin who lives in Indianapolis and Roy in Austin. Dirk and Marion met at New Mexico State University, where they were students. They have lived in quite a few places with Dirk's job. Upon retirement, they were ready to get out of the humidity and chose New Mexico. Missions are very important in their lives and HDUMC has been the church for them. Both Marion and Dirk have helped with Women with Purpose, packing supplies and loading the boxes. They drove to Santa Fe for our church's outing and attend the 11:00 church service. It's great to have Dirk and Marion as part of our church family!

Words that should end with 'Amen':

"We can do great things for the Lord if we are willing to do little things for others."



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Our recent trip to Tomasita's for lunch and St. Frances Basilica to visit the Stations of the Cross was a great success. There were 26 participants on this Fellowship activity. Everyone agreed that it was one of our best. Lunch was plentiful and delicious. The Tomasita's staff was very pleasant and professional. Our visit to the Stations of the Cross was a very moving experience. Each of us came away with a new appreciation of just how much Jesus sacrificed for mankind.

The Fellowship outing for May is the great American past time, BASEBALL !

We have scheduled an Isotopes baseball outing for Sunday May 15 at 1:35 pm. We have reserved box seats in Section 109; cost is \$15.50 per seat.

The Isotopes will be playing the Sugar Land Space Cowboys. The first 3,000 fans will receive a free Oven Mitts, courtesy of New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are interested in participating. The Church Bus will be available for those who need a ride; please sign-up to reserve your seat. Make your check payable to the Church and mark "Baseball Outing" on the memo line.



*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 being developed so **PLEASE STAY TUNED!** God Bless, Ken Dewbre*

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 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.



The services provided by Haven House include emergency shelter, case management, support groups, life-skill classes, legal advocacy, referral to job opportunities, housing, 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.

Special thanks to all who have supported our Second Mile Giving over the past four months. Due to your generosity, approximately \$3,880 has been contributed to the following ministries: Faith Comes by Hearing, St. Joseph Mission School, Gift Basket Ministry, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Feed New Mexico Kids. Listed below are thank you replies we have received from three of these agencies:

Faith Comes by Hearing: "We thank God for you. Your commitment to advancing His Kingdom on Earth is a blessing. You play a vital role in achieving Vision 2033 and bringing encouragement to our military servicemen and women."

St. Joseph Mission School: "We would like to thank you for your generous donation. As you know, we have some wonderful kids at St. Joseph's and your gift continues the programs that enrich the learning experience of each child in Catholic and local traditions. Through our Annual Report, we hope you are able to witness how your support specially touches each student in their learning process of faith, academics, culture, environment and service."

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR): "The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, we are certain their response would be – Thank you!"

Walk to Emmaus

Men's Walk - August 4-7, 2022; Women's Walk - September 8-11, 2022

Inlow Retreat Center (in the Monzano Mountains)

“Walk to Emmaus” is based on the scripture Luke 24:13-35 which tells of two believers’ journey on the road to Emmaus as they shared their hearts’ deepest concern about the death of Jesus. They encounter Christ, share a meal and recognize our Risen Lord; rushing back to Jerusalem to share the great news. The Walk to Emmaus is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as He is revealed to you through other believers. It is a 72-hour experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation. You will enjoy 3 busy days singing, learning, laughing, praying, worshipping and participating in small groups.

The theme of each talk is God’s Grace, how that grace comes alive in the Christian community, and how it expresses itself in the world. You’ll also discover how grace is real in your life, how you live a life of grace and bring grace to others.

You are invited to walk with Christ, in a new and different way, for the rest of your life! We have numerous persons in our congregation that have gone to a Walk to Emmaus. In fact, we have several working on these men and women’s walks! If you are interested in learning more about The Walk to Emmaus Weekends or are interested in attending, please contact Linn Carlson (505-450-4152) or Reuben.

NOTE: There is no actual walking involved; this is a spiritual “walk”, not a physical walk.

BIBLE STUDIES ANYONE?

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

Monday – 10:30 AM – “Believing God” by Beth Moore – Led by Francie Larsen

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

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

Online Studies – Daniel, Revelation, & John – contact Tony Smith at coraleno@aol.com

May 2022

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School (SS) 10:30 Morning Star (MS) 11 AM Worship	2 10:30 AM Bible Study	3	4 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir Practice	5 10 AM Women with Purpose	6 11 AM Food Pantry 5:30 PM Cook-Out: Church Parking lot	7
8 <u>Mothers' Day</u> 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	9 10:30 AM Bible Study	10 6 PM Ministry Team Meeting	11 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir Practice 5:30 PM Bible Study	12	13	14
15 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	16 10:30 AM Bible Study	17 9 AM Food Pantry	18 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir Practice	19 1 PM Food Pantry	20	21
22 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	23 10:30 AM Bible Study	24	25 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir Practice	26	27	28
29 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship * Father Antonio Trujillo preaching	30 10:30 AM Bible Study	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On May 29th we are fortunate to have Father Antonio Trujillo to preach at both the 9:00 and the 11:00 AM worship services. Father Antonio is the principal at St. Joseph's Mission School in San Fidel, NM, one of our mission focuses. 			SS = Sunday School MS = MorningStar

OBSCURER NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: Who was Hagar of the Old Testament? *Judy Ballard*

ANSWER FOR APRIL: *Malchus* (from John 18: 10)

Malchus was the [servant](#) of the [Jewish High Priest Caiaphas](#) who participated in the arrest of [Jesus](#). According to the Bible, one of the [disciples](#), [Simon Peter](#), cut off the servant's ear in an attempt to prevent the [arrest of Jesus](#). That servant was Malchus. Jesus, in His love and compassion, healed Malchus.

WOMEN WITH PURPOSE

Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary

Komfort Kits for Kids: One of our very favorite things to do (come to think of it, almost any and everything we get together to do is one of our 'favorite.' things) is to assemble a package of stuff for a child not having the best day of his/her young life. This will be our first time handing off 15 Komfort Kits for Kids to Lt. John Castaneda of the Sandoval County Sheriff Dept. to dispense when their officers encounter children at risk. These custom kits contain a child-size fleece blanket, a handmade stuffed toy (A special thank you to Lisa Isenberger, Rose Meyer, Bonnie Korngiebel who sewed up all these treasures), and an assortment of child-size toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, face cloth, soap, et.al.). Our intention is to pass along a bit of warmth and a big hug! Ladies, come join us!

Women with Purpose has the great privilege of supporting the work of Rev. Chris Davis who pastors the Nazarene Compassionate Ministry Church in Gallup, NM. This last month we filled 100 hand made fabric bags, created by Sue Duranty, with non perishable food to be given to the folks on the Navajo Reservation. The Twin Lakes Senior Center is still closed because of Covid but Chris and her team were able to host a "drive by" Easter celebration where they handed out Bibles, Easter candy, and our donated bags. She expressed her deep appreciation for our part in this. We were also able to donate 14 gallons of bleach, various toiletries, and additional sack lunches. We are thrilled to be an encouragement to Rev. Davis and hopefully make a small difference in people's lives.

Care Ministry

You are invited to call or send cards to these members of our church family to offer words of support and encouragement.

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 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 & Louise 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	
Wilmoth Chambliss	10700 Fineland Dr. NW #334, Albuquerque, NM	681-0825
Ella Jerome	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	206-4894



Jody Meyer	May 1
Rogene Schramko	May 5
Tommie Kemp	May 5
Olive Gandham	May 8
John Hannas	May 10
Eugene Anderson	May 11
Dodie Rossman	May 11
Rey Schuman	May 13
Joyce Cowles	May 14
Irma Peter	May 15
Faye Lora	May 16
Christine Lucero	May 18
Diane Witt	May 19
Bryce Hendricks	May 23
Carol Smith	May 25
Wanda Schierling	May 31

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



Trixie & Wilson Maclay	May 1
Karen & Bill Malinka	May 9
Eileen & Randy Sever	May 16
Marion & Dirk Sanderson	May 18
Sandra & Bud Keller	May 29
Glynda & John Samford	May 30

A Favorite Recipe! Toffee!

At our last meeting of Women with Purpose, several people requested the recipe for Jody Meyer's Toffee:

Step 1.) 14 oz Hershey's chocolate bar with almonds; plus 1 lb slivered almonds (NOT sliced with bark). Process in bottom blade of food processor to almost powder form. Divide evenly into 2 bowls and stir with whisk. Pour 1 of the bowls onto an 11x17 cookie sheet. Spread evenly using spatula (NOT hands.)

Step 2.) 2 lbs salted butter & 2 cups sugar. Melt butter, add sugar, and boil the mixture (medium on gas stove or med/low on electric.) Once it starts boiling (about 10 min.) begin stirring constantly for about 20 minutes, until mixture turns creamy. (It will separate, turn light brown, then go back together.) STIR continuously! When mixture is caramel colored, pour QUICKLY onto the cookie sheet and smooth it rapidly with spatula. Evenly spread the remaining chocolate/almond mixture over the toffee and cover with wax paper. Press gently using a hot pad over the wax paper. Cool several hours (room temp, then in fridge). Break into pieces. (Jody uses a hammer and a sterilized flat-head screwdriver.) It will keep in the refrigerator for a year!!

(Editor's Note: This recipe has been condensed to fit in the space allowed. I hope that I have not altered it in any significant way. Many thanks to Jody for sharing!)

The Health of High Desert Food Pantry

Even though we have seen many changes brought about by the Covid pandemic, this church and the food pantry remain as strong as ever in our commitment to provide food and basic necessities to those in need in our community.

During 2021, we experienced a significant drop in client participation – possibly due to a combination of pandemic fear, government subsidies, extended unemployment or just the weather. Our individuals served in 2020 was 4,682, comprised of seniors, adults, and children. Those numbers fell to 3,807 in 2021, yet showed an upswing as we neared 2022.

We have not yet reached pre-pandemic levels, but we are registering a few new clients each month and hope to see these participation numbers continue to grow as we move along in 2022.

As you may know, we receive the majority of our food products from Road Runner Food Bank, but there has been a remarkable drop in their offerings during the last half of 2021. Thankfully, we have acquired other “partners” in our search to subsidize those battling food insecurity.

In addition to the monthly contributions from our congregation, we have received additional food items from Mesa View and St. Stephen's United Methodist Churches, the New Covenant Worship Center, the Corrales Fire Department food drive, and others who recognize the importance of and the commitment to serving the Lord by helping to feed the hungry.

Our mission is stronger than ever and our success is determined by many factors – not the least of which is our volunteer staff. These “angels” are ready and willing to serve each day of distribution, whether we serve 70 families or 17. We strive to grow our client base as we move beyond the pandemic and hopefully return to some sense of normalcy.

Again, thanks to High Desert UMC for your continued support.

Michael Fawcett – Director, High Desert Food Pantry

High Desert United Methodist Church

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9AM-Noon
Phone: 505-891-4206;
Email: highdesertumc@outlook.com

May, 2022 Newsletter

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

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for MAY are:

Friday, May 6 at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, May 17th at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, May 19th at 1:00 p.m.

May Collection: Canned Soups and Stews

Contact Mike Fawcett at (715)456-3044

for more information.