

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

May, 2023, Issue 5

Over the past three months, we have seen a lot of change at High Desert UMC due to people moving away to be with their family, and others going home to be with the Lord. Now most people don't like change, but change is certain in our life. With these changes, some may be thinking that things will not be the same and it's going to hurt the mission of the church. Yes, it's true that things will not be the same, but they never are. Change is part of life. We just have to adapt to change. Yes, we will definitely miss these individuals, but I have found that God always provides somebody to step forward and take over. I truly believe that the best years are ahead of us. All we have to do is walk in faith and trust God. Remember nothing is impossible for God.

That being said, there are many opportunities for you to get more involved in the ministries here at High Desert. Listed below are a few of these opportunities:

1. We have an excellent choir at the 9 am service and they are always looking for new voices. If you would like to join

them in praising the Lord, see Frank Rotolo.

2. Each Sunday at 10:30 am, we lead a worship service for the residents of MorningStar Senior Living Facility. Please see me if you are interested.
3. Feed New Mexico Kids is one of our fastest growing ministries. We provide 522 food packages to students at 5 local schools monthly. Help is needed in purchasing and bagging food. Please contact Wanda Golsan to volunteer.
4. The High Desert Methodist Food Pantry currently serves 150 clients each month (400 individuals). Help is needed in several jobs with different skills, physical requirements and times during the month. These include welcoming intake of clients, preparation of food boxes, stocking shelves, transport of food and warehousing. If you would like to help at least one day a month, contact John Samford.
5. Women with Purpose meets the first Thursday of the month at 10 am. If you are looking for fellowship and an opportunity to serve, come join them.
6. Greeters and ushers play a critical role in our weekly worship services. If you

would like to join the 34 individuals currently serving, please see me.

7. Another group that is essential to our worship services is the sound and video booth. If you would like to join this group, please contact Bruce Packard.
8. I encourage everybody to get involved in a weekly Bible study; we currently have four classes. If you would like to start a fifth study, let's discuss.
9. Prayer is essential to the life of our church. If you would like to participate in our Prayer Chain, please contact Sandy Dewbre.
10. We are planning another mission project to St. Joseph Mission School to build ramps to the portable classrooms, finish the sidewalk and painting. See me if you are interested.

There are more opportunities to serve. Thanks to those who are already involved. I hope each of you will find some place to use the gifts that God has given you in His service. Keep the faith. Reuben



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

April Fellowship Outing

Bob Hope Traveling Exhibit, Nat'l Museum of Nuclear Sci. & History -

A big FYI: Wanda Whittlesey-Jerome made her virgin trip in 'Bennie the Bus' and we commend her on her success! She's an excellent driver; we just relaxed and left the driving to her.

Somewhere in the planning stages of this event, Judy Sampson signed up for the trip and got stuck with the phrase, "with bells on." Guess what? When we gathered at the church to drive to the NMNS&H, Judy greeted us with a cheerleader's pom-pom with a bell attached. What a fun way to start our day! BTW, anyone know the origin of that phrase? Share it if you do.

The Bob Hope Exhibit was loaded with various interactive displays and videos and photographs of family as well as Bob's decades of military entertainment tours. It was a sobering experience as well as light-hearted. You couldn't help but come away with a renewed respect for his indomitable spirit of Americana. He was a patriot in the truest sense and his daughter Linda is to be praised for sharing this insightful experience with us.

Afterwards, we met at the iconic Owl Café for lunch. We were the first group this season to use the diner's enclosed patio for lunch. The food was great and the service most congenial. A perfect wrap-up for a delightful outing experience. For those who rode the bus, we were treated to a scenic tour taking Tramway Blvd all the way into Corrales and back to HDUMC.

Planning Ahead for Operation Christmas Child

Why not start shopping now for your shoebox gifts? Here are some suggestions for ways to prepare for the next few months to fill your showboxes with fun and useful items:

May: Hygiene items (toothbrushes, combs, soap, washcloths, etc.) **June:** Quality toys (dolls, balls, jump ropes, Play-Doh, etc.) **July:** Clothing (T-shirts, socks, sandals, etc.) **August:** school supplies (crayons, markers, rulers, paper tablets) **September:** Games (puzzles, Uno cards, etc.)

The Faithful Gathered for Easter Morning Sunrise Service



Discipleship Corner

Shining as Disciples

by Lisa Isenberger

Jesus explained that He was the light of the world. His followers noticed that He was different from others who preached for their own glory. His own light was always shining as a beacon of hope to the glory of God. As disciples, we are called to bring light to a world struggling with division and despair. It's not our own light that shines, but the light of Christ.

Matthew 5:14-16. 14) "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15) No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16) In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Perhaps there is an area this month where you can focus on being a light to the world. We shine as disciples when we share the love of God with others, in praise and thanksgiving for all that He has done and will do for us. You could shine by providing comfort and encouragement to friends and family who are going through difficult times. You could shine by using your time, treasures, and talents to serve the community in some way. You could shine by using your spiritual gifts to help the church in ministry. However you choose to shine, remember to do it not for your own glory and praise, but for the glory of God.

Prayer - Loving Father, I thank you for the beauty of creation and all the good things you have given me. Help me to shine brightly as a disciple, in loving service to others for the glory of your name. May the light that shines through me become a beacon of hope to others. In Jesus' name, AMEN.

Spreading Smiles One Wag at a Time

Lisa Isenberger

In February, Otto and I began the evaluation process with a local therapy dog organization called High Desert Therapy Dogs. Since I enjoy helping others and love spending time with companion animals, it seemed natural that this would become an expression of my chaplain ministry. The evaluation process checks for things like a calm and friendly demeanor, being unfazed by loud noises and sudden movements, and proficiency in basic obedience. It also requires a screening process, commitment to active participation in therapy work, and demonstration of proper handling and control. Otto and I successfully navigated the requirements and became a registered therapy dog team in March.

There is a growing body of evidence demonstrating that interactions with friendly animals improves emotional, spiritual, and physical healing by decreasing blood pressure, stress, depression, and anxiety. In contrast to service dogs who are each trained to assist a specific person, therapy dogs and their handlers work together as a team to improve the lives of people in the community.

Otto and I, along with other therapy teams, are visiting patients and staff at Presbyterian Rust Medical Center, the Retreat Alzheimer's and Dementia facility, Lovelace Heart and Rehabilitation, and the Lovelace Cancer Center.

Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors. When a friendly dog like Otto gives comfort and affection to a stranger, he is a role model of unconditional love. Watching these interactions has helped me realize that just sitting with a person in the midst of their struggles can make a big difference in their day. As Mother Teresa once said, "small things done with great love can change the world." Lisa Isenberger

MAY SECOND MILE GIVING – HAVEN HOUSE

Haven House is the only domestic violence shelter in Sandoval County. It 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 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. You may place your contribution in the basket on the back table or note "Haven House" on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your support of this local ministry.

Women with Purpose

Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Not only are we known as "Women With Purses," but with another humorous moniker as well: "Bag Ladies." That's because we are bagging 100 (yes, you read that correctly) lunch bags (Vienna sausages, granola bar, fruit cup, pudding, goldfish crackers and a bottle of water) to be distributed to the needy Navajo population living on the fringes of the Gallup community. Reverend Chris Davis of the Nazarene Church there has embraced this segment of our New Mexican population with Christian love and outreach. She has created a special bond with these folks, and now we are attempting to do the same even if it is on a smaller scale. We are also hoping that Rev. Davis will be able to join us today. So, why don't YOU join us, too?

Walk to Emmaus

You are invited to walk with Christ, in a new and different way, for the rest of your life!

Men's Walk to Emmaus, September 14-17, 2023; Women's Walk to Emmaus, September 28-October 1, 2023

We have numerous persons in our congregation that have gone 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 Pastor Reuben. ***Registration is now open for both walks.***

KAIROS Prison Ministry

Have you ever considered participating in prison ministry? The Women's KAIROS at the women's prison in Grants is scheduled for **August 17-20, 2023**. **Talk with Linn Carlson for more information.** HDUMC has been involved in this ministry for many years prior to COVID.

May 2023

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10 AM Bible Study	2	3 Office hrs. 9-12 9:00 AM Missions Com. 10:30 Bible St. 5:30 PM Choir & Bible St.	4 10 AM Women with Purpose 11 AM Fellowship Comm.	5 11 AM - 2:00 PM Food Pantry	6
7 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship 1:35 PM Baseball Outing	8 10 AM Bible Study FNMK Bagging	9 6:00 PM Ministry Team Mtg	10 Office Hrs. 9-12 10:30 Bible St. 5:30 PM Bible St. & Choir	11 Feast Day at St. Joseph's Mission School	12 Emmaus Agape Group 10-11	13 Kiwanis Club meeting at the church
14 Mother's Day 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	15 10 AM Bible Study	16 9 AM Food Pantry	17 Office Hrs 9-12 10:30 Bible St. 5:30 PM Choir & Bible St.	18 1 PM Food Pantry	19	20
21 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	22 10 AM Bible Study	23	24 Office Hrs. 9-12 10:30 Bible St. 5:30 PM Bible St. & Choir	25	26 5:30 PM Church Cook-out/Picnic	27 Spanish Church Celebration at the church
28 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	29 10 AM Bible Study Memorial Day	30	31 Office Hrs. 9-12 10:30 Bible St. (No choir tonight)			

SS = Sunday School; MS = MorningStar Worship; FNMK = Feed New Mexico Kids

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: What was Gilgal in the OT? Answer on p. 7

ANSWER FOR LAST MONTH: Cleopas

Cleopas appears in Luke 24:13–27 as one of two disciples walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Cleopas is named in verse 18, while his companion remains unnamed. This occurs three days after the crucifixion, on the same day as the Resurrection of Jesus.

Bible Studies Available

SUNDAY 10 AM: Studying a LifeGuide Topical Bible Studies, entitled “Prayers of the Old Testament” Led by Tony Smith.

MONDAY 10 AM: Francie Larsen leads a study entitled “Why Easter Matters” by Andy Stanley.

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 the church website.

Thank You Notes to Share:

(Thank you) for all that the folks from HDUMC did to make the sidewalk at St. Joseph’s. Our students enjoyed working with y’all and learned so much...Thank you for giving us a glimpse of the Kingdom. In Christ, Julie, student Pastor at Elon University in North Carolina

We here at Cielo Azul Elementary thank the membership of HDUMC for providing the snack sacks for some of our needy students. Wanda has faithfully coordinated this outreach program with your volunteers. The snacks have been such a blessing. Judy Reynolds, Counselor and Staff

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



Trixie & Wilson Maclay	May 1
Melissa & Damon Bruce	May 4
Karen & Bill Malinka	May 9
Eileen & Randy Sever	May 16
Marion & Dirk Sanderson	May 18
Sandra & Bud Keller	May 27
Glenda & John Samford	May 30

Jody Meyer	May 1
Rogene Schramko	May 5
Olive Gandham	May 8
John Hannahs	May 10
Eugene Anderson	May 11
Dodie Rossman	May 11
Brian Kassel	May 12
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

Answer to the Obscure Names in the Bible question on p. 6

What was Gilgal in the Old Testament? The Site of the memorial stones, circumcision, first Passover in the Promised Land. Also was the site of the Gibeonite covenant. See the book of Joshua. Also denounced for idolatry in the book of Hosea.

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

May, 2023 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for May, 2023 are:

Friday, May 5 at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, May 16 at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, May 18 at 1:00 p.m.

May Collection: Soups, Canned Stews

**Contact John Samford at (505) 870-0667
for more information.**