

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

November, 2022, Issue 11

Well, there are only a few weeks before Thanksgiving, when we as Americans set aside a day to be thankful for the many blessings of life. However, in reality, we should be thankful each and every day for the blessings that God bestows on us. So, let me focus on one of these blessings that God sends our way.

The other day, I was watching the movie *The Book of Eli*, and one of the closing scenes touched me. Thirty years after war turned the world into a wasteland, a lone warrior named Eli marches across the ruined landscape carrying hope for the redemption of humanity. He fights his way across America in order to protect a sacred book that holds the secret to saving human kind. Only one other man understands the power of the book Eli carries, and he is determined to take it for himself.

Near the end of the movie, Eli and Solara, who has joined his quest, arrive in the wasteland of what used to be San Francisco. They get into a rowboat and head for Alcatraz Island where a

group is gathering remnants of pre-war civilization such as books, music and art, and storing them in cells until they are ready to rebuild and re-establish society following a nuclear disaster. Eli tells them that he has a copy of the King James Bible.

Of course, they welcome Eli since he is in possession of the only known copy of the Bible. The curator of Alcatraz asks Eli if his copy is in good condition. To which Eli responds: “It’s worn, but it still does the job.” That line got to me. God gives us this precious gift of His Word as an instruction manual for living the Christian life. How many of us are using this gift as our daily compass through life? Is your Bible worn or do the pages still stick together like when it was new? Charles Spurgeon, the great British preacher, once said that a Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who is not.

Another message from the movie is that we don’t know how precious something is until we don’t have it anymore. With all the blessings of life that we enjoy, we tend to overlook one of the greatest gifts that God has given us. We tend to take the Bible and its availability for

granted. Following the reading of the scripture during worship, you will often hear the person say: “God’s Word for God’s people; thanks be to God.” But do we really mean it; are we truly thankful for this wonderful guide for life that God has given us. And more importantly, are we using it or is it gathering dust somewhere in our home?

As long as I can remember I have had a Bible in my hands. I have read it from cover to cover, but it is still a mystery to me; it still inspires me. I will never completely understand it because it is inspired by a far greater wisdom than me – the love of God. But that doesn’t stop me from reading it every morning. I cannot get through a day without the Word of God; it is my security blanket. Do I practice what it says correctly; no, but I try. I love the Bible; it is one of my best friends. I can’t do without it, and I hope that you feel the same way. God’s Word for God’s people; thanks be to God!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Reuben

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



October Outing: We had a great time at Tinkertown Museum. The cool weather was almost perfect. Everyone really enjoyed touring the museum. There was almost

TOO MUCH to see.



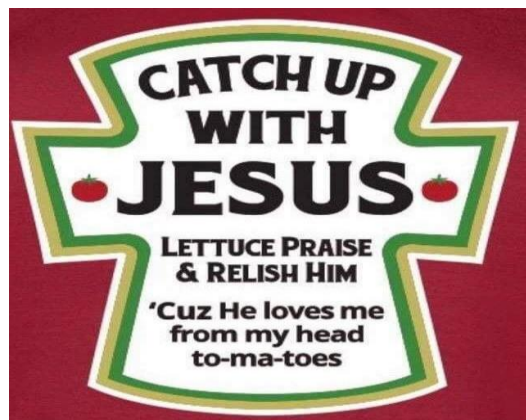
The museum owner gave a short talk on the history of the museum before we entered. Our meal at Yours, Mine & Ours restaurant was delightful. It was a great opportunity to break bread together and get to know each other better. Thanks to all who provided rides!

November Fellowship Event: Bingo, Friday, November 18, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the church. No need to sign up, just show up ! (A sign up sheet will be available for those folks that need a ride to church and back home.) Bring your own snacks, finger foods only, nothing that needs to be warmed or cooked. Also, **please bring a wrapped white elephant gift**. These will be used as prizes for Bingo winners. Now is the chance to get rid of that "Thing" you were wondering what to do with! Please join us for a time of FUN and FELLOWSHIP ! Water and lemonade will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there !!

God Bless, Ken Dewbre, Fellowship Committee Chair

Welcome to Our Newest Members

It is a joy to see so many new faces at High Desert UMC. Special thanks to all who have invited their friends and neighbors to join us in growing closer to the Lord and serving Him in our local community. Also, special thanks to the following who have made the decision to officially join the membership of High Desert during year 2022 thus far: Charlene Brandt, Goldie Buckner, Bonnie Chalfant, Lou Christen, Frankie Combs, Harry Combs, Dave Duranty, Sue Duranty, John Hannahs, Rudy Hoffman, Natalie Holtgrewe, Vic Holtgrewe, Lynn Hood, Sharon Johnson, Joanna Jones, Brian Kassel, Sandra Keller, Bill Mason, Cheryl Mason, Rebecca Nordhoff, Pauline Walker, Wayne Walker, and Wanda Whittlesey-Jerome. May God bless you and may you feel welcomed, supported, and loved at your new church home.

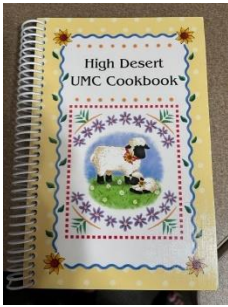


Autumn Church Cook-Out

On the cool, cloudy, but NOT rainy, evening of October 7th, 100 people gathered in the church parking lot for hamburgers, hotdogs, and lots of pot-luck dishes. As you can see, a good time was had by all!



Church Cookbooks Are Here!



Cost: \$10 each

Available to purchase each Sunday between the worship services, or in church office Wednesday mornings. These make great Christmas gifts.

Proceeds go to Missions projects.

Special thanks to Jan Herrington for her tireless work as Chairperson of this project.

POINSETTIAS

We plan to order poinsettias for Christmas Eve services. If you would like to purchase one in honor or memory of someone, watch for the form in the bulletin during the month of November. Deadline to order is November 28, 2022.



**Thank you to Guy Brister
for the beautiful floral arrangements
in our Sanctuary and Narthex.**



Women with Purpose

Thursday, November 3, 2022

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

This meeting is a “Two-Fer” which means doing twice as much work!

Another favorite of our projects (seems like they are all favorites?!) is Baby Bash in a Bag, for the expectant young ladies aging out of the state foster care system. Candace Gould, founder of Heart Gallery of New Mexico, will be our guest speaker. HGNM addresses this need in our community and we are happy to be a part of it. In addition to all the wonderful, cute “baby things” we will be stuffing into 10 deluxe, hand-made and attractive tote bags, we go to the 2nd project in this “Two-Fer” meeting: Operation Christmas Child needs us to assemble 20 boxes. Under the leadership of Patty Latter, HDUMC produced over 80 boxes last year—our goal this year is 100. Won’t you join us? The camaraderie of the women in this group is awesome and you cannot help but be lifted by the ‘Jesus’ spirit found here!

**NOTICE! SAVE YOUR
LEFTOVER HALLOWEEN
CANDY TO STUFF SOCKS FOR
OUR HOMELESS CHRISTMAS
PROJECT!**

November 2022

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 10 AM Women with Purpose	4 11 -2:00 Food Pantry	5
6 * All Saints Sunday 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	7 10 AM Bible Study	8 6 PM Ministry Team Meeting	9 Office Hours 9 AM-12 Noon 10:30 Bible St. 5:30 PM Bible St. & Choir	10	11 Veterans' Day	12
13 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	14 10 AM Bible Study	15 9 AM Food Pantry	16 Office Hours 9 AM - 12 Noon 10:30 Bible St. 5:30 PM Bible St. & Choir	17 1 PM Food Pantry	18 2:00-4:00 Bingo	19
20 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	21 10 AM Bible Study 10 AM, FNMK Bagging	22	23 Office Hours 9 AM - 12 Noon 10:30 Bible St. 5:30 PM Choir Bible Study	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27 9 AM Worship: Concert by Scott & Irma Reeder 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship: Concert by the Readers	28 10 AM Bible Study	29	30 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir Bible Study			

*Daylight Savings Time ends
Sunday, Nov. 6th. Set your clocks
back 1 hour Saturday night.

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

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: What is Ebenezer (not Scrooge) in the OT?

ANSWER FOR OCTOBER: (Who was Tertius?)

The name Tertius occurs only once in the Bible. Tertius was the **scribe who wrote down the words of Paul** in what later would be called Paul's Epistle to the Romans (Romans 16:22). Church tradition holds that Tertius started out his Christian career as one of the seventy disciples (Luke 10:1), and after his stint with Paul moved on to Iconium to succeed Sospater as bishop there.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Midwinter's Promise – Celebrating the promise of God's love found in the music of the season... the frosty air, the silent snow, the quiet frozen earth. Music for All Seasons.

WHEN: Sunday,
November 27, 2022
Both 9 and 11 am services

WHERE: High Desert United Methodist Church,
1201 Golf Course Road Rio Rancho, NM

WHO: Scott and Irma Reeder

WHAT: Traditional Christmas carols from many countries, contemporary songs celebrating the season, haunting airs and hymns with roots in the Celtic heart of the British Isles, and foot-stomping Irish and American fiddle tunes. Scott and Irma will be playing the Celtic harp, mountain and hammered dulcimers, bowed psaltery, Irish tin whistles, renaissance recorders, guitars, bodhran (Irish frame drum) and more! Come join us as we begin celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!



FEED NEW MEXICO KIDS

Little did we know, back in 2019, that our “one-time“ project of assembling weekend snack packs to be given to food-challenged students in Rio Rancho would grow like it has! Because of the generosity of our congregation, other folks who hear about this ministry, and because of grants and gifts given, we have been able to increase our donations every year. We began this school term putting together and sending out 290 packs in July. August required 326 bags and September we sent out 330 bags. Then, we started getting phone calls! The need increased at one school far beyond what was predicted and a school we were not supporting called and requested help. It appears that we now need to assemble 480 bags per month. (We have a hard time saying “no”, especially when children are hungry.)

This ministry could not happen without many volunteers. A team of individuals purchase each food item, a team sets up tables so that it is easier to pack bags the night before bagging day, many people donate any amount they can to cover the cost of food items, Jane Komatz staples food pantry information and encouragement cards that go into the bags, and many people encourage volunteers, pray for the children and the workers and support these efforts tirelessly. Because of the increased needs of hungry children we could use your help, call Wanda at (505) 796-4929 or Gordon at (505) 235-2674 if interested in donating some of your time or support.

By the way, because of the increase in hungry children we are now spending about \$3,360 per month during the school year.

Wildfire Recovery Effort

Prayers needed for the International Relief Team (IRT), including Linn Carlson, who are deploying to Paradise, CA November 13-20 to help in the California Wildfire long term recovery effort.

The 2018 wildfires in California were the deadliest and most destructive in the state's history. Vulnerable families lost their homes, their livelihoods, and their hopes for the future. In the immediate aftermath and in response to an urgent request by the Butte County School District, International Relief Teams (IRT) provided funding for textbooks for students in Butte County who lost all of their school supplies in the fires. The Camp Fire alone destroyed 6 schools, damaged 8 schools, and affected nearly 4,000 students.



In 2021, IRT began working in the town of Paradise, CA to rebuild homes for low income families and sent 41 volunteers on 5 teams to rebuild 7 homes. Paradise was nearly wiped off the map by the fire. Only 5% of buildings in the town remained without serious damage. In 2022, we are continuing to send volunteer teams to rebuild homes for as long as we are needed.

Bible Studies, Anyone?

SUNDAY 10 AM: Studying a LifeGuide Topical Bible Studies on *Forgiveness*. Led by Tony Smith.

MONDAY 10 AM: Francie Larsen leads a study of *God the Creator* by Randy Frazee. In eight sessions, Randy presents “God’s Upper Story and our Lower Story.”

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: Our Wednesday morning class led by Judy Ballard is studying 1 & 2 Peter.

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.

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.

Care Ministry

You're invited to call or send cards to these 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	
Ella Jerome	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	312-2992
Wanda Schierling	921 Purple Aster, Bernalillo, NM 87004	970-398-0501
Charles Kottenbrook	Canyon Transitional Rehab Ctr., 10101 Lagrima de Oro NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111	



Shawn & Ian Colbert	November 10
Joanna Jones & Brian Kassel	November 25



Dottie Thompson	Nov. 1
Ciera Lucero	Nov. 1
Robin Foley	Nov. 2
Lorra Garner	Nov. 2
Georgia Hickman	Nov. 8
Troi Donnachaidn	Nov. 10
Louise Warpole	Nov. 10
Keith Witt	Nov. 11
Jean Welch	Nov. 14
Charlotte Bullock	Nov. 17
Gary Smothermon	Nov. 17
Gary Cowles	Nov. 22
Mel Lora	Nov. 23
Bruce Packard	Nov. 23
Laurie Smothermon	Nov. 25
Sue Hinchcliffe	Nov. 25
Laura Minoletti	Nov. 28

Words that should end with 'Amen':

“Satan doesn’t care if you claim to be a Christian; he only cares when you don’t act like one!”

Our New Parsonage (just kidding – it's a storage building)



High Desert UMC recently purchased a 20 ft container unit. One onlooker said, "It's so big, someone could live in there." This will provide much needed storage for tables and other equipment, and free up indoor storage for supplies necessary to implement our many mission projects. In addition, it will eliminate the need to continue paying a monthly fee for an

off-site storage shed, thus saving the church \$900 per year. The unit is located on the south west side of the church, and will have a fence to hide it from the street. There are doors on the north and east sides of the unit. It is fully permitted - after we jumped through many hoops with the city government.



NOVEMBER SECOND MILE GIVING

As Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, listed below are three opportunities for Second Mile Giving during November to help others during the holiday season:

CHRISTMAS HAMS: For several years, High Desert has been providing hams for Christmas for the clients of the High Desert Methodist Food Pantry. If you would like to support this ministry, please mark "Christmas Hams" on the memo line of your check to the church. We will purchase the hams and distribute them prior to Christmas.

CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS: One of our newest mission projects is St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel. The school serves 40 students from the Acoma and Laguna Pueblos. When asked what High Desert could do for the students at Christmas, the principal Antonio Trujillo indicated that gift cards would be an excellent Christmas gift. This would allow the students to purchase what they really want for Christmas. We plan to purchase a \$25 or \$50 gift card for each student depending on how much is donated. If you would like to support this project, please mark "Christmas Gift Card" on the memo line of your check to the church.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Have you submitted your shoebox(es) to be distributed to children all over the world. We will take the boxes to Grace Outreach Church during collection week on November 14-21, 2022. We are getting close to our goal of 100 boxes. Thanks for your continued support for this ministry.

As you can see, there are several opportunities to give and make a difference in the lives of children and those in need. We hope that you will support at least one or all these mission projects. Your continued support and participation in the mission program of High Desert is greatly appreciated

High Desert United Methodist Church

1201 Golf Course Road

P.O. Box 45378
Rio Rancho, NM 87174

Office Hours: Wednesday 9 AM - Noon

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

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

November, 2022 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for November are:

Friday, November 4 at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, November 15 at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, November 17 at 1:00 p.m.

**November Collection: Cooking Oil
Contact Mike Fawcett at (715)456-3044
for more information.**
