

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

November, 2023, 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. I for one am thankful for each one of you and this church. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who work behind the scenes each and every day to serve the Lord and make High Desert such a wonderful place to worship. At the risk of leaving somebody out, I would like to thank the following:

- All those who regularly attend worship
- The choir and all who have provided solos
- Lori Kottenbrook for her inspiring music
- The sound/video system crew
- Bus drivers
- All the greeters and ushers
- Communion stewards and servers
- MorningStar worship leaders

- Bonnie Korngiebel for providing donuts and organizing receptions
- Those who have assisted with receptions
- Your support and generosity to the church
- Finance Committee and counters
- Your continued support for our mission programs
- Women with Purpose
- Pantry leadership and volunteers
- Feed New Mexico Kids volunteers
- St. Joseph and Gallup mission teams
- Interfaith Bible Center contributions
- Contributions to Operation Christmas Child, & Patty Latter's leadership
- Basket ministry volunteers
- Your participation in the weekly Bible Studies
- Bible Study Teachers
- Ministry Team
- For all who serve on committees
- Trustees
- Guy Brister for cleaning the church
- Linn Carlson and office volunteers

- Bryce & Sara Hendricks for communion bread and cards
- Those who lead and attend Emmaus

Count your many blessings, name them one by one; count your blessings, see what God has done. Happy Thanksgiving.

God Bless, Reuben

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Under the leadership of Cheryl Mason, we have reinstated our Prayer Shawl Ministry. Our prayer shawls are made for anyone who is going through a difficult time. Hopefully, they will provide endless amounts of comfort and joy. There is no better feeling in life than to wrap yourself in something that was made with love. Whatever the struggle, prayer shawls can definitely help provide comfort during any period of difficulty. If you know of someone who would benefit from receiving a prayer shawl, please contact the church office.

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Who was Jethro (AKA Reuel) ? 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 fall. 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 book of Ruth, led by Francie Larsen.

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: The Holy Spirit, and the book of Psalms, Led by John Kottenbrook.

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: The entire Bible using "The Story", led by Reuben Thomas

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

October Fellowship Activity:
Church Picnic.



November Fellowship Activity: A concert by the Duke City Swamp Coolers, is planned for Saturday, November 4th from 2-4 PM including a pot luck meal. There are 3 signup sheets in the Narthex: 1 for attending, 1 to reserve a seat



on the bus, and 1 to indicate what dish you plan to bring.

Until next time, Ken Dewbre, Fellowship Committee Chairperson

Gallup Mission Trip – October 11-13, 2023



**Lorraine's Sewing Class:
a girl, 2 boys, and a dad!**



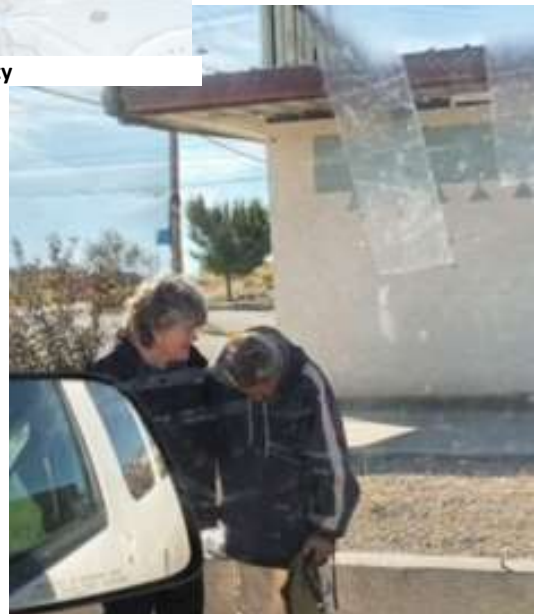
**Leslie praying for
a man on the street**



Children's Halloween Party



Wanda W-J visiting a sick lady



Linn prays with a man on the street.

NOVEMBER SECOND MILE GIVING:

The Second Mile Giving for November will go to providing hams for Christmas for the clients of the High Desert Methodist Food Pantry. We will purchase the hams and distribute them prior to Christmas. If you would like to support this ministry, please mark "Christmas Hams" on the memo line of your check to the church.

Operation Christmas Child

Help us meet our goal of providing 133 shoeboxes. It not too late to fill a shoebox with toys, hygiene items, school supplies and a donation of \$10 for shipping or providing a financial donation to cover the shipping cost of additional boxes. Special thanks to all who have contributed items for the shoeboxes over the past few months. Please join us on November 17 at 10 am as we assemble the shoeboxes.

Women with Purpose

"Women with Purpose will meet November 2nd, 10:00 AM in the sanctuary. Please join us as we assemble "Baby Shower in a Bag" gifts for NM Heart Gallery. Our speaker will be Candance Gould, former New Mexico State Senator."

Come and bring a friend!

THE STORY

The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People

On August 30, 2023, our Wednesday Night Bible Class began a nine-month journey through the entire Bible using the *The Story* by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee. Condensed into 31 accessible chapters, *The Story* sweeps you into the unfolding progression of Bible characters and events from Genesis to Revelation. *The Story* is different from your traditional versions of the Bible in that it is written as a novel with all the duplication taken out, allowing you to more easily follow the story of the Bible in a chronological order. The texts were chosen to retain the overall flow of the narrative, so that you get a sense of the "big picture" of the Bible. *The Story* will help you understand who God is, who we are, and the meaning and purpose of life. Each Wednesday night, we will discuss each chapter in detail. If you want to learn more about the Bible, the greatest story ever written, it's not too late to come and join us.

DISCIPLESHIP CORNER

by Lisa Isenberger

Leftovers:

There's something in the story of the loaves and fishes that always reminds me of Thanksgiving. Jesus was able to feed a huge crowd with just a few fish and pieces of bread. After everyone had their fill of food, there were plenty of leftovers. Just like the day after Thanksgiving! (John 6:11-13). 11: Jesus took the bread in his hands and gave thanks to God. Then he passed the bread to the people, and he did the same with the fish, until everyone had plenty to eat. 12: The people ate all they wanted, and Jesus told his disciples to gather up the leftovers, so that nothing would be wasted. 13: The disciples gathered them up and filled twelve large baskets with what was left over from the five barley loaves. Jesus instructed His disciples to be sure to gather up the leftovers. Have you ever wondered why Jesus was so concerned about these excess fragments of bread? Perhaps there is more to this entire story than just feeding a large crowd. At the last supper, Jesus explained that He was the bread of life, broken for us. Maybe Jesus wanted those leftovers to be gathered up because each fragment represents a piece of Him, and the love and grace represented by those pieces was intended to be shared with as many hungry souls in the community as possible. As we strive to be disciples of Jesus, let's be good stewards of the leftovers, gather them up, and share His love and grace with those around us. Prayer: Almighty Father, during this season of Thanksgiving, I thank You for being a gracious provider of everything that I need and more. Help me to gather the leftovers to share Your love and grace with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

BOOKSHELF LIBRARY

At the request of members of our congregation, High Desert United Methodist Church is developing a Bookshelf Library. The Christian book collection is located in the Fellowship Hall. All the books are donations and may be checked out on a clipboard located in the bookcase.



If you have Christian materials that you would like to donate, please place them in the basket on the bottom shelf of the bookcase. Each donation will be reviewed by volunteers to determine if the book fits the Christian mission of High Desert. Books that are not a good fit will be donated to other organizations.

Our Own Volunteer Extraordinaire :

Val Forbes

If you caught the 10:00 PM Newscast on channel 4 (KOB TV) last Tuesday night, October 24, you saw our own Val Forbes bring honored as a volunteer who makes a difference. Val was nominated for all her tireless work to make lives better throughout Rio Rancho and beyond. Although she mentioned the many mission projects of High Desert UMC, the station edited out those references. We are so thankful for Val!

Another thing that Val does that we might want to copy: She puts wrapped snacks outside her front door, on a chair or table with a sign that that says "Take a treat, Fed Ex, UPS, USPS"



You can just imagine how those delivery drivers are grateful for the treats!

NOVEMBER

2023

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Friday Team		1 Office Hrs 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir Practice and Bible Study	2 10 AM Women with Purpose	3 11:00-2:00 Food Pantry	4
5 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship 6 PM Church Conference	6 10 AM Bible Study	7	8 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study	9	10	11 Distribution of Thanksgiving boxes to Haven House
12 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	13 10 AM Bible Study 10 AM FNMK Bagging	14 6 Pm Ministry Team	15 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study	16 1:00 -4:00 PM Food Pantry	17 10 AM Operation Christmas Child Boxing	18
19 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	20 10 AM Bible Study	21 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon Food Pantry	22 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study No Choir or Bible Study	23 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	24	25
26 Concert, both services 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship	27 10 AM Bible Study	28	29 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study	30		

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

On November 5, All Saints Sunday, we will remember and honor those of our congregation who have gone home to be with the Lord over the past year. We will light candles for the following:

Shelia Acre
Elizabeth Anderson
Lois Brister
Lou Christen
Connie Dowler
Mike Fawcett
Natalie Holtgrewe

Esther Gandham
Tommie Kemp
Pat McMillan
Mary Mondragon
Francis O'Neal
Nellie Pacheco
Harold Sampson

Eileen Sever
Gloria Sims-Graham
Lousie Warpole
Lael Wellington
Arlene Westgaard

Annual Church Conference

We will be meeting with representatives of Bernalillo UMC, Cornerstone UMC, Mesa View UMC, Paradise UMC, and Rio Rancho UMC for a combined Church Conference at Paradise Hills UMC at 6 pm Sunday, November 5. Everybody is welcome to participate.

Thanksgiving Tamales

The Spanish Church is taking orders for Tamales for Thanksgiving. Cost is \$20 per dozen. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Last day to place order is Sunday November 12; they will be delivered on Sunday November 19 at the church.

Braving the Holidays

A Workshop for Coping with Grief through the Seasons

WHO: Adults grieving the loss of a loved one

When: Saturday, November 11, 2023 from 8:00AM to 12:00 noon

WHERE: Asbury United Methodist Church, 10000 Candelaria NE, Albuquerque, 87112

RSVP: EmbracingtheJourney505@gmail.com or call 505-299-0643

For more information, see flyer in the Narthex.

Pet Food for Pantry Clients



Did you know that companion animals are often the only tangible source of comfort for those who are facing difficult times? Sadly, people are sometimes faced with the tough decision of buying food for themselves or food for their furry companion, ultimately resulting in the surrender of their beloved pet just when they need them the most. Please consider helping us love our neighbors by keeping pets and people together this holiday season through donations of cat and/or dog food for pantry clients. Pet food can be dropped off in the Narthex. Financial donations are welcome.

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 26, 2023; 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!



UMCOR IN ACTION IN GUAM (U.S. TERRITORY)



Typhoon Mawar, in May of 2023, was one of the strongest tropical cyclones on record. It passed north of Guam as a Category 4-equivalent typhoon on May 24th, bringing hurricane-force winds and heavy rain.

A coordinated effort between Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and UMCOR has been approved to help around 125 households' physical

homes that were impacted by Typhoon Mawar. This project prioritizes the elderly, veterans and those with access and functional needs. The program's mission is to restore disaster-damaged homes to a habitable condition, so that households have shelter until more permanent repairs can be completed. Teams will help with basic carpentry, electrical, and plumbing repairs in addition to roofing. Our participation in this effort is being coordinated by the California-Pacific Conference of the United Methodist Church.



Due to an injury, Linnette will not be able to participate as planned. We appreciate your prayers for this mission of the United Methodist Church.

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
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
Polly Van Lenten	920 Riverview Dr. SE, Apt 280, Rio Rancho 87124	979-277-4852



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



Ciera Lucero	November 1
Dottie Thompson	November 1
Robin Foley	November 2
Lorra Garner	November 2
Jeff Bair	November 6
Georgia Hickman	November 8
Marlene Fraser	November 10
Drew Ammons	November 11
Keith Witt	November 11
Jean Welch	November 14
Gary Smothermon	November 17
Charlotte Bullock	November 17
Gary Cowles	November 22
Mel Lora	November 23
Bruce Packard	November 23
Frankie Combs	November 24
Sue Hinchcliffe	November 25
Laurie Smothermon	November 25
Laura Minoletti	November 28
Ruby Hunyady	November 29

ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES IN
THE BIBLE:

JETHRO (REUEL) WAS THE
FATHER-IN-LAW AND ADVISOR
TO MOSES.
SEE EXODUS 2 AND 3.

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Office Hours: Wednesday 9 AM - Noon

Email: highdesertumc@outlook.com

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

November, 2023 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for November, 2023 are:

Friday, November 3 at 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, November 16 at 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 21 at 9:00 a.m.

November Collection: Canned Soups and Stews

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

Contact John Samford at (505) 870-0667

for more information.