

*“Changing One Life at a Time”*

# HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *REUBEN’S RAMBLINGS*

October 2020, Issue 10

One Sunday a pastor asked a class of Sunday School children: “Who broke down the walls of Jericho?” A boy quickly answered: “Not me, sir!” The pastor was noticeably upset and turned to the Sunday School teacher and asked: “Is this typical?” To which she replied: “Pastor, this is a good and honest boy; I really don’t think he did it.” Such a response sent the pastor straight to the Sunday School superintendent. After hearing the pastor’s concern, the superintendent tried to console him by saying: “I’ve known this boy and his family for years and just can’t picture him doing such a terrible thing.” In disbelief, the pastor sought out the Chairman of the Deacons. The wise deacon tried to smooth the waters some with his conventional wisdom. “Pastor, let’s not make a big issue out of this. Let’s just pay for the damages and charge it to our maintenance account.” It seems that none of them were familiar with this Bible story.

Then there’s the story of pastor who visited one of his sick members at her home. He came in and sat by her bedside and listened quietly as she recited a long list of

woes. Finally, in counseling her, the pastor indicated that she might find some comfort and help from certain passages of the Bible. He asked if he could borrow her Bible. In a weak voice, she called out to her little daughter playing in the next room: “Darling, bring your dear mother that old book that she loves so much.” Promptly, the little girl brought her a copy of the latest TV Guide.

Sounds unreal, doesn’t it? But the Library of Congress conducted a survey and asked: “What book has had the most influence on your life?” The Bible was number one. Yet, during a typical week only 45 percent of American Christians read the Bible. Of that 45 percent, just 12 percent claim to read God’s Word daily. Fifty-five percent don’t even bother to open it once a week!

Did you know that more people can recite a TV commercial than a verse from the Bible? Another survey showed that most college students could not name the four gospels. Very few people could identify all Ten Commandments. Some people even believe that

the epistles were the wives of the apostles.

So how well do you know the Bible? Would you like to learn more about the Bible? Even with the restrictions of the coronavirus, all three of our weekly Bible studies have resumed meeting. On Sunday morning at 10 am in the classroom, Tony Smith is leading a study the Book of Daniel. On Wednesday morning at 10:30 am, Judy Ballard is leading a study of 1 and 2 Timothy also meeting in the classroom. And on Wednesday evening at 5:30 pm, we are discussing an overview of the Bible and are studying the Book of Romans in the sanctuary. If you are not currently involved in a weekly Bible study, please consider joining one of these studies. If you are unable to participate in a group study, continue to read your Bible and find a good commentary. Let God’s Word light your path through life!

God’s Word for God’s people;  
thanks be to God!  
God Bless.

*Reuben*

# WOMEN WITH PURPOSE

## Women With Purpose

October 1, 2020

10:00 a.m.

HDUMC sanctuary

WWP's association with Saranam in the past has been mainly for the children currently being served by that program (Birthday In A Bag!). This month we are expanding our reach to the mothers of those kids by assembling a personal 'make-up' bag for each lady (well, okay, there is one single dad in the group, so we will come up with something 'different' for him). Jane Butel has graciously provided all the pretty bags to be filled with essential toiletries--and perhaps something frivolous. Glynda Samford and Lisa Isenberger are supplying hand-made new face masks as well.

**Saranam** is a housing, education, and community-building program for *families* experiencing homelessness in Albuquerque, NM. The main goal is to assist these families transition beyond that status of homelessness. For more detailed information about this young but worthy cause, go to [saranamabq.org](http://saranamabq.org). Visit this internet site more than once—you will learn something new every time!

## **UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF (UMCOR)**

**For the second time in history, the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season is so intense that the U.S. National Hurricane Center may run out of letters in our alphabet and have to resort to naming new storms using letters from the Greek alphabet. And even as millions on the Gulf Coast are deluged with wind, rain and flooding as of this writing, millions more out West are fleeing massive wildfires. Across the globe 2020 has seen massive monsoon flooding in South and Central Asia and torrential rains and catastrophic flooding throughout the African continent. And UMCOR is always there to provide assistance to those in need. While we always take a Second Mile Giving each year in March, there is definitely a need now for additional funds. If you would like to contribute, please mark "UMCOR" on the memo line of your check.**

### **BIBLE STUDY**

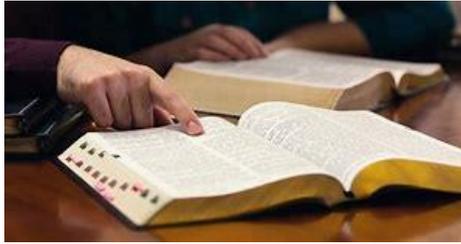
*Sunday Mornings at 10:00 AM at the Church – Tony Smith, teaching*

*Wednesday Morning at 10:30 AM at the Church – Judy Ballard, teaching*

*Wednesday Evening at 5:30 PM at the Church – Pastor Reuben, teaching*

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# OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: Who is Jeduthun of the Old Testament? *Judy Ballard*

## **ANSWER FOR SEPTEMBER:**

### **Who is Ananias of the New Testament?**

Ananias was a disciple in Damascus whom the Lord God appeared to in a vision. He instructed Ananias to go to the house of Judas where Saul of Tarsus was staying after his ‘episode’ on the road to Damascus which had left Saul blind. The Lord’s instruction was to restore Saul’s sight but Ananias protested. “I have heard from many about this man, how he has done much harm to Your saints in Jerusalem.” But the Lord answered, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear my name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.” Ananias entered the house and laid his hands upon Saul and said, “The Lord, whom you met on the road to Damascus has sent me to restore your sight and fill you with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately scales fell from Saul’s eyes and his eyesight was restored. And Ananias baptized Saul there. Acts 9:10-19.

## **OCTOBER SECOND MILE GIVING**

Our Second Mile Giving for October will go to World Communion Scholarships which are offered by Global Ministries to United Methodist Church members seeking to obtain a master’s or doctoral degree and then serve the church and community in some form after their studies. Recipients are chosen based on the following focus areas: combating the diseases of poverty by improving health globally, engaging in ministry with the poor, creating new places for people and renewal of existing local churches, and developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world. The goal is to find the students who have the best opportunity and the best drive to further the Christian mission in the world. At least one-half of the funds collected will be reserved for ministries outside the United States. If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile ministry, please mark “World Communion Scholarships” on the memo line of your check; you may contribute anytime in October. Thanks for your continued support of our outreach ministries.

## **MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE SERIES – SHARED BY GORDON GOLSAN**

### **My favorite Bible verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:11**

“So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you’ll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you’re already doing this; just keep on doing it.”

I especially enjoy Eugene Peterson’s language in the Message. I have been blessed to have many mentors in my life. The individuals influential in my life modeled 1 Thessalonians 5:11 each moment of their life as they quietly encouraged me to try to do the same. As I interact with people in our church, I see this message lived out in this place. Thank you!

*Gordon Golsan*

### **This is My Granddaughter**

One day while we were living in Southaven, Mississippi, I was shopping at a supermarket when I noticed at the front of the store a shopping cart full of dolls. In the mix were white and black dolls. There were two little blue haired ladies standing there looking at the dolls. One of them said, “I don’t know why they have to mix the black dolls with the white dolls.” “You are right,” responded the other little old lady”. I said to them, “I think my granddaughter would like one of these dolls.” I call to Lauren, “Come here sweetheart.” She came skipping over. I introduced her to the two little blue haired ladies, “This is my granddaughter, Lauren.” They give me this disgusting look and left in a huff. You see Lauren is my precious adopted granddaughter and she is black.

I thought to myself, how can we just dismiss someone’s worth based on the color of their skin, anyway, beautiful black natural skin makes more sense that dying your hair blue. Prejudices go way deeper than skin color. There are religious, political, social, physical, intellectual, etc., prejudices. To be prejudiced means you think you are superior to the one you are judging. Most prejudice is the result of feelings of inferiority and insecurity. The only way a prejudiced person can boost their self-worth is to push others down to an inferior place in their own minds.

Prejudice is a very dangerous lifestyle. It was religious prejudice that eventually nailed the Lord Jesus Christ to the cross. How many people have we nailed to the proverbial cross with our superior attitudes? James, in his epistle, warns against the sin of showing partiality. Jesus said, “What gives you the right to judge one another?” He also warned that we would be judged by the same judgment we dish out. Paul said, “Whatever you sow is what you will reap.” When we set ourselves up as judge, we are usurping a right that belongs to God, and that ain’t good. You really don’t want to get at odds with God. Let us just do what the Bible says, love one another. Glory!!!!

*Charles Kottenbrook*



Our “Angel Among Us” this month goes out to **Bonnie Korngiebel!** Bonnie has been a member of HDUMC since almost the beginning of the church. Almost all of us have received a card or message from Bonnie at some point in time. She has been in charge of Congregational Care and is the person who constantly remembers to send a card to members who are sick or need support, but according to church members, it is the special messages that Bonnie writes in each one of those cards that means the most. Bonnie has been in charge of refreshments and been involved in the Ministry Team, Women With Purpose and Stephens Ministry. In interviewing members about Bonnie, the same words come out – “Christ Led”. **THANK YOU, Bonnie!**

I BELIEVE  
THERE ARE  
angels  
AMONG US



### UPDATE FROM THE EDITOR:

**We are just about done with the History of HDUMC.** Hope you have enjoyed it. There is a book in the office with more information on the history of HDUMC. We are continuing the feature of “Obscure Names In The Bible”, and Judy Ballard will be providing the information for that. The calendar is filling up, but make sure you call the office if you are not sure about scheduled activities. Please do not forget to send me articles or suggestions for our “Monthly Angel”. Be safe, but most of all be happy!

[generations4counseling@hotmail.com](mailto:generations4counseling@hotmail.com) or phone 505-331-8894.

Francie Larsen

Next Deadline: October 23rd



## High Desert United Methodist Church “Something New~~Bible Fun at Home”



Emily Sue Chambers and Judy Thomas during filming

Judy Thomas has developed a new creative way to reach children during the COVID Pandemic, “Bible Fun at Home”. We have seen how businesses, schools, and all aspects of our world have had to turn to the world wide web to survive and I guess it is no different with churches and even God. Judy says she approached Jody Meyer to film Bible Stories since they could no longer meet for Vacation Bible School. What eventually transpired were 12 episodes filmed with bible stories being read by volunteers and followed by directions for crafts and science projects. Each episode is about 15 minutes and has been well received.

TO USE THE PROGRAM GO TO THE CHURCH WEBSITE, CLICK ON MORE, AND CLICK ON KIDS ACTIVITIES.

Special thanks to the readers, Rose Meyer, Ron Komatz, Emily Sue Chambers, Bonnie Korngiebel, and Earlene Price

**WAY TO GO JUDY FOR THINKING OUT OF THE BOX!!!**



To commemorate 9-11 the church put together a basket of snacks and a thank you note delivered to our local fire station in Rio Rancho. It was received by Battalion Chief Dave Paterson.

# Lay 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.

<b>Ella Jerome</b>	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	206-4894
<b>Lois Brister</b>	2867 Cripple Creek Drive SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	892-7987
<b>Barbara Gatzweiler</b>	4102 Malaga Court SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	459-2262
<b>Sheila Arce</b>	4910 Tramway Ridge Dr. NE, #318, Albq. NM 87111	
<b>Glen Nesbitt</b>	Advantage Assisted Living, 1729 Wellspring Ave. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	
<b>Phil Pittman</b>	C/O Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NW Room 28, Albuquerque, NM 87120	
<b>Mae Washburn</b>	Revenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr NW, Albq. 87120	
<b>Lorra Garner</b>	Skies Healthcare, 9150 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq. 87114	
<b>Norvin Schuman</b>	382 Nicklaus Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-0526
<b>Grover Donahoe</b>	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	220-3839
<b>Rod &amp; Louise Warpole</b>	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	994-9339
<b>Frankie Harper</b>	9812 Basha Street NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114	892-2045



<b>Happy birthday!</b>	Alice Coate	10/3	<b>Happy birthday!</b>	Grover & Doris Donahoe	10/12/1957
	Dann Meyer	10/3		Mike & Sandie Fawcett	10/18/1969
	Dave Duranty	10/5		Rod & Louise Warpole	10/31/1958
	Wanda Golsan	10/6			
	John Kottenbrook	10/7			
	Kay Boss	10/11			
	Ken Dewbre	10/11			
	Tara Warrior	10/11			
	Mary Lou Schimke	10/14			
	Karen Malinka	10/17			
	Leuretta Lewis	10/17			
	Linda Bates	10/20			
	Mary Ann Birch	10/23			
Mike Fawcett	10/27				
Jenny Kottenbrook	10/28				
<b>Happy birthday!</b>	<b>Happy birthday!</b>				



# October 2020

## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Women With Purpose 10:00 AM at the church	2 Food Pantry 11AM to 2PM	3 <b>Blessing of the Animals 9-10 AM</b>
4 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	5	6	7 Bible Study 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM	8	9	10
11 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	12	13 Ministry Team Mtg 6 PM	14 Bible Study 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM	15 Food Pantry 1 to 4 PM	16	17
18 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	19	20 Food Pantry 9 to Noon	21 Bible Study 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM	22	23	24
9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS			Bible Study 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM			



## THIS TIME OF COVID

*Preface from the Editor, Francie Larsen  
~~Honest reflections~~ Lately I have sorely missed our Pre-COVID church services and not so sure how to cope with it. I really did not share it with many people because I didn't want to sound negative, but I missed the hugs, the smiles, and the close mingling. I just kept talking to God about my feelings, somehow, HE always seems to know what I need. I needed an article for the Newsletter, and I contacted my old standby, Ron Komatz on the phone and before I could say more than a few words he said, "You know what? Lately I have been missing our old church services, you know the touching, music, etc." At that moment I felt the hand of God on my head. Others felt like I did. We talked a little more and I asked him to write something about this and here it is.*

Our "church experience" at HDUMC is certainly different than it was pre-COVID. However, have you stopped to consider how truly fortunate we are to still be meeting at all? Every Sunday when Jane and I drive to church we pass: a closed Lutheran church, a closed Episcopal Church, and a closed Mormon Church. Meanwhile, we at HDUMC are still able to gather. Yes, I miss the coffee hour and the visiting and the singing (a lot!!!), but as a community of God (ie... a church) we are still functioning, and I give God praise for that.

Here is a brief reflection from a book called "Daily Inspurrations". Why is it such a challenge for us mere mortal humans to remain "calm", especially when things do not go as we planned or expected them to go? When faced with difficulties you have a choice. You can rebel or withdraw, or you can proceed calmly. Choosing calmness reduces stress and results in better decisions. So, accept the situation and move on. Rejoice in what we have and be calm!! Things will eventually return to normal!!

Retired Pastor Ron

## Guideposts, 2018

***Behold, God is my helper, the Lord is the upholder of my life. –Psalm 54:4***

Outside the trees were just turning crimson. The air had a chill. I raked leaves that had fallen and tried to convince myself that everything was okay despite having just learned that an opportunity I'd hoped would come my way had gone somewhere else.

I took a deep breath and came up with reasons the opportunity wasn't right for me –that most likely it would be a failure anyway. When the sour grapes approach didn't work I tried to put the disappointment out of my mind altogether.

My pile of leaves got bigger, but I was still feeling bad I took another deep breath and prayed, "I trust Your plan, Lord. Your will, not mine."

Looking at my watch, I realized that Henry would be coming home from school any minute, so I sat on the front porch. The big yellow bus roared down the road, and I smiled at seeing my son's face in the window.

He hopped off the bus steps. "We're roller-skating in gym!" he said.

"Is it fun?" I asked.

"I don't know yet," he said. "We spent the whole day learning how to fall down."

"That's a useful skill," I said, opening the door. I smiled, thinking of a gym filled with kids purposely throwing themselves on to the floor. "I'm still learning how to fall, Henry," I said.

All at once the weight of my disappointment seemed to disappear.

Sabra Ciancanelli

*Dear Lord, Thank You for helping me through life's disappointments, for picking me up when I fall.*

## HDUMC History

**Finding a New Home**, . . . in January of 2003, Pastor Bob met with the District Superintendent to lay out plans for a move to 4200 Meadowlark Lane. Post cards were again mailed to the Rio Rancho community, and ads were placed in the local newspaper.

In February of 2003, money was raised to renovate the atrium of the new location at Meadowlark. Somewhere around \$35,000 was raised outside of the local congregation. Church members provided hours and hours of labor to transform the atrium into useable space.

When the church moved into the atrium of the Office Complex of Meadowlark, many things had to be changed. The permanently settled planters had to have wheels put on them to be moved into the hallway on Sunday mornings in order to make room for the chairs that formed the seating. Painting had to be done. One of the Office Suites became the office for Pastor Bob and there were 4 additional rooms to be used for Sunday School classes and other purposes. A kitchenette was also included. It was a communion kitchen with only a sink, a refrigerator and a microwave. There was no stove

The first service at the Meadowlark location was held on April 6, 2003, Easter Sunday. About 50 people were in attendance at the 9:00 AM service. The church's membership at the new Meadowlark location grew and grew until 2006 after being sponsored for 3 years by the Mesa View UMC, a meeting was held at Mesa View Church in November, at which time our satellite church became a free standing, independent and chartered church. A contest was held to choose a new name for the new church, and it became High Desert United Methodist Church

"Picture, pictures" (CONTINUED NEXT MONTH)

# **“Still Doing Our Part” BASKETS FOR HOSPITAL STAFF**



20 Baskets made for Hospitals



Baskets on the way to Rust Hosp



Delivery at Lovelace West Hospital with Theresa & Yvonne and Eileen



Delivery at Rust Presbyterian with Eileen Sever and David Marler

## **HDUMC Supports "Essential Workers"**

To show our support for essential workers in our community, HDUMC prepared twenty (20) gift baskets of snacks for nurses and staff workers at Rust and Lovelace westside hospitals. We also presented a huge basket to a local dentist office. Photo shows Cabazon Dentistry staff member accepting our gift. During COVID-19, HDUMC is doing all we can to reach out and show that we CARE for our essential workers.



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# High Desert United Methodist Church

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Rio Rancho, NM 87174  
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9AM-Noon & 1-4PM  
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highdesertumc@outlook.com

"Like" us on Facebook at:

[Facebook.com/HDUMC](https://www.facebook.com/HDUMC)

Or

Follow us on Twitter at:

[Twitter.com/highdesertumc](https://www.twitter.com/highdesertumc)

We're on the Web!

[www.highdesertumc.org](http://www.highdesertumc.org)

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## HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

**Distribution dates for October are:**

**Friday, October 2nd at 11:00 a.m.**

**Tuesday, October 20th at 9:00 a.m.**

**Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**

**October Collection: Stuffing and Pie Filling**

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