

*"Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives"*

# HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS*

October 2021, Issue 10

Have you ever thought about how Christians are different? When a person accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, does their physical appearance change instantaneously? Do all their problems instantly go away? Do they suddenly live in a rose garden? Are they immediately blessed with financial and material riches?

The answer, of course, is NO! Christians live in the same world with the same problems, financial worries, health issues and dangers as everybody else. But there is a difference once Jesus comes to dwell within their hearts and lives. Christians live with the assurance that they are not alone in life's struggles. Jesus told us in Matthew 28:20 that He will be with us forever – not just on the good times but also when the road gets rough and others desert us. Jesus is always there to comfort and guide us. And He promised us in John 14:26 that He would send us a Counselor, a Comforter, the Holy Spirit to be our guide along this journey of life.

As Christians we also live with the blessed assurance that the grave is not the end, but just a transition point. Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for our sins and His resurrection from the grave, all

who believe in Him will have eternal life with Him and the Father. In the covered wagons days when gold was discovered out here in the Old West, the pioneers endured the sufferings of the prairies, the mountains and the desert, because they knew that beyond those Sierra Mountains lay the promise of gold. Thus, as Christians we go through life with all its challenges and opportunities with hope and a promise of salvation. A Christian is one, who in spite of worries, inner conflicts, and tensions, is confident that God is in control and you will be victorious in the end.

So how do you recognize Christians? By their fruits, how they live their daily lives. Galatians 5:22 gives us a partial summary of those characteristic qualities that a Christian should strive to exhibit in their lives with the help of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Space does not allow a detailed discussion of each fruit, but let's look at the first two – love and joy.

God is love; the Bible is God's love letter to us. When asked what was the greatest commandment, Jesus responded: love the Lord your God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. Then in John

13:35, Jesus tells us that others will know that we are His disciples (followers) by how we love each other. The ultimate characteristics of Jesus and His followers is love – love for one another, our fellow human beings. This is defined as agape love which always seeks the best for the other person no matter how they have treated us or what they have said about us.

Now joy is distinctly a Christian word and a Christian concept. Joy is not the same as happiness. Happiness is an emotion, the result of what happens to you. Joy is an attitude. Emotions come and go, but attitudes come and grow. Only Jesus gives this kind of joy.

Are Christians then perfect? NO WAY! We are as human as anybody else and will continue to make mistakes. But with the help of the Holy Spirit, we try to move on to perfection, to become more like Jesus in our attitudes, thoughts, words, and actions each day. Christians are not perfect; we are just forgiven! God Bless.

*Reuben*

# COMMUNITY OF HOPE

Dave and I would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to all who donated towards the Community of Hope meal on August 22, 2021.

With your generous donations we were able to provide 80 meals and a “to go” bag to the homeless community at the Central United Methodist Church in Albuquerque.

Each meal included beans and meatballs, coleslaw, roll and butter, and a fruit cup. Also, in the “to go” bag we included two hard boiled eggs, a banana, a cereal bar and some Tic-tac mints. An important part of serving this meal is the preparation and portioning out of each meal. Thank you to those who helped prepare and serve.

Seeing the face of each individual as they receive their meal makes preparing and serving the meal such a rewarding and humbling experience.

Unfortunately, with Covid, we are unable to sit and have conversation, but as I walk around each table to tell them that I hope they enjoy the meal; the response is always “yes, thank you”. As I was walking by one table this meal, I stopped to ask the man sitting all alone if he was ok and if he was enjoying his meal. He told me the meal was great and that he appreciated it. Then, as I was walking away he said “God bless you”. Wow! I walked away with tears in my eyes. (Sue)

Our next opportunity to serve will be October 24, 2021. If you are interested in helping in any way please speak to (or email) either Dave or Sue Duranty.

Peace and blessings,  
*Dave and Sue*

“Feed the hungry! Help those in trouble! Then your light shall shine from the darkness, and the darkness around you shall be bright as day.” Isaiah 58:10



## WOMEN WITH PURPOSE

Imagine if you will for a moment that **WWP** was not Women With Purpose, but a Biblical women's study instead. That idea creates no vibrant action image as we now have--but I digress. About four years ago Pastor Nadine and (Ret) Pastor Leslie Barnett approached Wanda Golsan with an idea to lead a women's study, perhaps 'Women of the Bible' or some such. Right leadership selection, wrong focus. Wanda agreed to head up *some* kind of group if the purpose could be *doing*. And the idea of *women doing something for women in need* was launched: seeds planted, germinated, watered, cared for and grown beyond all reasonable expectations to the bumper crop it is today.

Wanda agreed to lead such a group for one year. There has been no suggestion that she step away or down, nor will there ever be. We started in a cramped Sunday School room on Tuesday mornings and expanded to include an evening meeting. Our numbers grew and we struggled with space to meet. But we persevered! As a united front of women we are formidable to anyone with ideas of quashing our *purpose* which is *doing*.

Our first project was to respond to the needs of incoming women at Haven House, the only battered women's shelter in Sandoval County. Often these women (and sometimes children, too) arrive at that facility with no more than what they are wearing. Our intent was to provide necessary toiletries along with a handbag and something strictly feminine, like a silk scarf. From there our hands-on involvement has included feeding the homeless in the International Zone of Albuquerque (Interfaith Bible Institute), Saranam in Albuquerque that deals with issues of homeless *families* (we provide individual birthday parties for the children), The Heart Gallery of New Mexico that acknowledges the aging-out of girls from foster care who are pregnant or have perhaps already given birth, recently released women from incarceration who deserve a hand up to become productive members of their community (we presently serve two such organizations), created comfort packs for children at risk as identified by Rio Rancho police, Feed New Mexico Kids (we are PROUD of that one!), and snack baskets for first responders, police dept, and fire stations to say THANKS!

Enter the ever-dreaded *pandemic*. Well, we just hiked up our pants, masked up, drenched our hands in sanitizer and socially distanced. There will be no delay in HDUMC's **WOMEN WITH PURPOSE** when we have a need we can fill. Did our Lord not charge us with these words, 'feed my sheep?'





## PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND

Some people think this great old gospel song was written by the famous big bandleader Tommy Dorsey. It wasn't, the author was named Thomas Andrew Dorsey, and he was the son of a Black revivalist preacher.

Thomas was born in a small town in Georgia in 1899. When he was about eleven, the Dorsey's moved to Atlanta where Thomas was quickly enamored by the blues and began playing piano at a vaudeville theater. Later the family moved to Chicago where he attended classes at the College of Composition and Arranging. Soon he was on stage under the name "Georgia Tom", playing barrelhouse piano in one of Al Capone's Chicago speakeasies and leading jazz bands.

Thomas was converted at the National Baptist Convention in Chicago in 1921 and began writing gospel songs and trying to get them published. It was discouraging at first. He later said, "I borrowed five dollars and sent out 500 copies of my song, 'If You See My Savior', to churches throughout the country . . . It was three years before I got a single order. I felt like going back to the blues."

He didn't, and gradually his reputation grew, and his work became known. In August 1932, while leading music in St. Louis, he was handed a telegram bearing the words, "Your wife just died." He rushed to a phone to call home, but all he could hear over the line was "Nettie is dead! Nettie is dead!" A friend drove him through the night, and he arrived home to learn that his baby boy had also died.

"I began to feel that God had done me an injustice," Thomas later said. "I didn't want to serve Him anymore or write any more gospel songs." But the next Saturday, while alone in a friend's music room, he had a "strange feeling" inside—a sudden calm and a quiet stillness. "As my fingers began to manipulate over the keys, words began to fall in place on the melody like drops of water falling from the crevice of the rock:

Precious Lord, take my hand

Lead me on, let me stand

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. . ."

Today, Thomas A. Dorsey is remembered as the "Father of Gospel Music" and the author of hundreds of gospel songs, like "Peace in the Valley"

Taken from "Then Sings My Soul" by Robert J. Morgan

# Food Pantry

## FOOD PANTRY SUMMER REPORT

As we approach Fall and the students and teachers return to school, we hope to see an increase in the number of families returning to the pantry.

Our numbers have steadily declined each month this year due to any number of reasons: the pandemic 1<sup>st</sup> and foremost, the government stimulus, increased unemployment bonuses to those who lost their jobs, the heat, etc. We really cannot point to any one reason.

We are also seeing a reduction in the amount of TEFAP (free commodities) we receive from Road Runner, due to manufacturing and distribution disruptions originating from the COVID restrictions.

The science tells us that vaccines are effective but with so much of the population pushing back against the vaccinations, we may never return to the “normal” we once knew before COVID,

Even though participation is reduced, HDUMC Food Pantry volunteers will continue to serve those in need and deliver to them whatever food products we are able to get.

Thank you, HDUMC for your continued Support.

Michael Fawcett – Food Pantry Director



**UPDATE FROM THE EDITOR: Will do “Angels Among Us” next month.**

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

Francie Larsen

## **BIBLE STUDIES ANYONE??**

Sundays, 10 AM, Studying Revelations, Led by Tony Smith

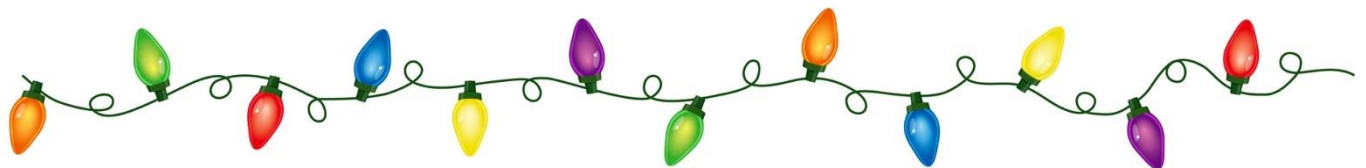
Mondays, 11 AM, “Heaven”, Randy Alcorn (DVDs). Led by Francie Larsen

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM, 12 Part Study on King David, Led by Judy Ballard

Wednesdays, 5:30 PM, Studying Hebrews, Led by Pastor Reuben

## **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

We will be taking a special offering on World Communion Sunday October 3 for 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.



### **OCC (Operation Christmas Child)**

A Ministry of Samaritan's Purse led by Franklin Graham

#### **YES, IT IS THAT TIME AGAIN!**

Have fun filling a shoebox with Christmas gifts for a child. The receiving children live all over the world. Along with the gifts, the children will receive a booklet about Jesus, and an invitation to attend a 12-week program at a church near them. They will receive a Bible when finishing the classes.

Last year HDUMC filled 51 boxes. "Let's do 60," says Pastor Reuben!!!

Contact Patty Latter at 334-8894 or Arlene Westgaard 803-6885



# OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: Who is Cleopas in the New Testament? *Judy Ballard*

**ANSWER FOR SEPTEMBER:** Who is Jairus of the New Testament?

Jairus was a ruler in the synagogue whose 12-year-old daughter was sick/dying. He asked Jesus to save his daughter and while on the way to Jairus' home, word came that the girl had died. Jesus denied this and continued to Jairus' home where he raised the girl and demanded someone prepare her something to eat.

## WOMEN WITH PURPOSE

### **DETAILS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

WWP will meet  
on Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>  
at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.

The meeting on this day is two-pronged. One of our favorites, Birthday Bash in a Bag for the children in the Saranam program is always a fun time. This year we will fill 35 gaily colored gift bags with cake and frosting mixes, birthday candles, an age-appropriate book, and a special birthday card attached to the outside. The "bag" will be delivered near or on the birthday of the identified child. The second part of this meeting is new and just as important. New Mexico is currently receiving Afghan refugees into our state and we have arranged to supply a number of the women with essential toiletries and a new head scarf. We have plenty of room ladies, won't you come join us?



## HEROES AMONG US . . .

On this past holiday weekend, at Lake Nokomis in Minneapolis, MN; it was a hot day and many families were enjoying the last few days of Summer while swimming at the beach. At some point, two boys disappeared under the water. When bystanders found them and got them to the beach, both were unconscious and not breathing.

The two boys, ages 8 and 11, were at the beach with their father. Once pulled from the water, a lifeguard and a nurse quickly began CPR and maintained the two until the EMT's arrived. The boys were then transported to a local hospital where they remain in critical condition. The names of the boys were not released but I ask for prayers for the medical staff and for their full recovery.

The lifeguard that was on duty at the beach and the nurse who was at the beach with two young children of her own, were both credited with life-saving efforts in an attempt to save these boys from a tragic accident.

As we all gather to reflect on the events of 9-11, we all need to remember that heroes come in all forms and they all deserve our respect and support; the nurses, law enforcement, fire-rescue, military personnel, teachers and so many more that provide a higher level of service, not just while on duty, but they carry with them an inherent commitment to help others.

I can tell you that my hero does not wear a cape, but rather "scrubs" as the nurse that stepped forward that day to provide what I call a "Legacy of Caring" was our daughter – Tiffany.

*Michael Fawcett, Proud Parent*



### BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

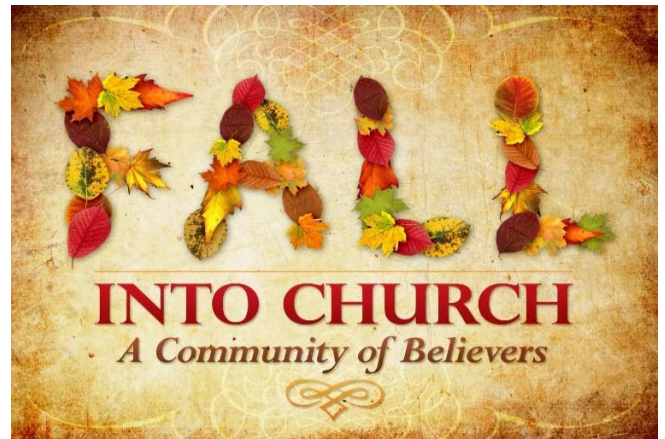
Blessed by so many new faces in the congregation, there have been several requests to bring back the name tags. These will be available by the first Sunday in October. Instead of having a name tag board, each person will be given a name tag to take home. You can put it in your purse, glove compartment of your car, etc. for the next Sunday. We decided against using the boards to maintain social distancing and to avoid large groups gathering around them during COVID. If you should lose your name tag, the office will replace it.



# October 2021



HIGH DESERT UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Food Pantry 11AM to 2PM	2 <b>Blessing of the Animals 9 AM in front of the church</b>
3 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	4 11 AM Bible Study 1 PM Legacy Letters	5	6 Bible Study 10:30 AM <b>Barbecue 5-7 PM</b>	7 <b>Women With Purpose 10 AM</b>	8	9
10 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	11 11 AM Bible Study 1 PM Legacy Letters	12 <b>Ministry Meeting 6PM</b>	13 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM	14	15	16
17 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	18 11 AM Bible Study 1 PM Legacy Letters	19 Food Pantry 9 to Noon	20 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM	21 Food Pantry 1 to 4 PM	22	23
24 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	25 11 AM Bible Study 1 PM Legacy Letters	26	27 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM	28	29	30
31 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS						

## 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.

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	Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NW Albq.	87120
Mae Washburn	Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr NW, Albq.	87120
Lorra Garner	Genesis, 9150 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq.	87114 408-722-6482
Norvin Schuman	382 Nicklaus Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM	87124 891-0526
Grover Donahoe	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM	87124 220-3839
Rod & Louise Warpole	10301 Golf Course Rd. NW #119D, Albq.	87114 382-9706
Mary Lou Schimke	7927 Jamestown Road NW, Albq. NM	87114-4498 898-5911
Mac Esquibel	4544 Aguila Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM	87124 891-1469
Norma Skinner	1809 Beck Street, Bryan, TX	77803



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

Alice Coate	10/3
Dann Meyer	10/3
Dave Duranty	10/5
Susan Fullinwider	10/5
Wanda Golsan	10/6
John Kottenbrook	10/7
Rupendra "Raj" Gandham	10/9
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
Bonnie Chalfant	10/18
Sakorn "Usa" Van Doren	10/19
Linda Bates	10/20
Mary Ann Birch	10/23
Mike Fawcett	10/27
Jenny Kottenbrook	10/28
Kay Anderson	10/29

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



Rev. Mac & Laverna McGrew	10/6/1984
Grover & Doris Donahoe	10/12/1957
Mike & Sandie Fawcett	10/18/1969
Rod & Louise Warpole	10/31/1958

Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

## What is a *Life Legacy Letter*?

A legacy letter is a simple and complete do - it - yourself solution for those who want to leave a meaningful legacy (and get it done!) but do *not* want to spend a fortune, be interviewed, write a book, or wade through miles of ideas and checklists. It's the gift of yourself in a letter, marking your days on this earth and sharing your heart and mind to your descendants (both born & yet to come) - precious for its thoughtfulness and foresight, unique in its generosity of love.



## Church Cookout

On Wednesday October 6th from 5-7 pm in the Church parking lot; if you can help, please sign up in the Narthex; invite a friend or neighbor, everybody welcome.

Join us  
for a  
Barbecue



## SECOND MILE GIVING FOR OCTOBER

We will be providing  
items for Thanksgiving  
Boxes for the residents  
of Haven House.

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# High Desert United Methodist Church

1201 Golf Course Road  
Rio Rancho, NM 87174  
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9AM-Noon  
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Email:  
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We're on the Web!  
[www.highdesertumc.org](http://www.highdesertumc.org)

"Like" us on Facebook at:  
[Facebook.com/HDUM](https://www.facebook.com/HDUM)

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## HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

**Distribution dates for October are:**

**Friday, October 1st - 11 am to 2 pm**

**Tuesday, October 19th – 9am to Noon**

**Thursday, October 21st – 1pm to 4pm**

**Featured collection for October: Stuffing and Pie Filling**

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