

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

October, 2022, Issue 10

High Desert UMC is a mission focused church, and I truly appreciate your continued support for our mission program. Somebody recently asked me what was my approach to missions. I noted that I had shared this during my first sermon here at High Desert back in July, 2018. Fortunately, the church has grown over the last four years, and so I thought that maybe I should share my thoughts on my ministry and missions again.

There are basically three biblical passages that influence my ministry. First, Mark 12:30-31; in this passage a lawyer asked Jesus what is the greatest commandment. In reply Jesus summarizes the Ten Commandments into two simple, but essential commands: “Love God, love your neighbor.” This is how we are to live: God first and then practicing agape love, seeking the best for others no matter what.

Second, Matthew 25:31-46; this is the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats. Jesus said: “I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you invited me in;

I needed clothes and you clothed me; I was sick and you cared for me; and I was in prison and you visited me.”

This is what missions is all about, reaching out and helping others.

Finally, the Great Commission in Mathew 28:19-20 – “Go make disciples.” This is our call to share the Good News with everybody; to sow seeds of faith at every opportunity we get. The Great Commission is so important that Jesus repeats it again right before He ascends back into heaven. He wanted to make sure that the disciples and the church today got the mission statement, our marching orders correctly. Listen to what Jesus said in Acts 1:8 – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

While this passage applies to our witness to our local church, the local community and to the world, it also defines my approach to missions. I see missions as three concentric circles. The inner circle is the mission projects in our local community. These include the Pantry, Feed New Mexico Kids, Gift Basket Ministry, ReadWest Inc., Haven House, school supplies and gift cards for local

Teachers, and the MorningStar ministry.

The middle circle is our mission projects to the State and surrounding region. This includes Community of Hope, Interfaith Bible Center, Women with Purpose outreach to the Compassionate Ministries Nazarene Church in Gallup and St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel.

The outer circle is our mission to the world and includes Heifer International, Operation Christmas Child, Faith Comes by Hearing, National Disaster Search Dog Foundation and United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

As Christians and a church, we should be actively involved in all three circles. It is when you focus outward that you grow as a church. Churches that focus inward on their personal needs and neglect missions start to die as a church. I found a quote that says: “A church that is not reaching out is passing out.” We are called to witness and show God’s love to others and we do this through our mission program. Thanks for your continued support.

God bless. *Reuben*

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



September Outing: Our semi-annual Isotopes baseball outing took place on Sunday, September 18, with 39 attending. The Isotopes lost, but a good time was had by all.

October Outing: Plans are underway for a trip to the Tinkertown Museum in Albuquerque's East Mountains on October 13, 2022 at 10 AM, followed by lunch at Yours, Mine & Ours Restaurant in Cedar Crest. Due to uneven terrain, those with scooters or wheelchairs will require assistance at the museum. Admission is \$6.00 each, tax included, and will be collected at the museum. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. 'Hope you can join us!

God Bless, Ken Dewbre, Fellowship Committee Chair

OCTOBER SECOND MILE GIVING

While Thanksgiving and Christmas are a few months away, we are already starting our holiday preparations. There are three opportunities for Second Mile Giving during October as noted below for helping others during the holiday season:

THANKSGIVING BOXES: For the last three years, High Desert has been providing Thanksgiving Boxes with all the items needed for a Thanksgiving dinner including the turkey to the clients of Haven House. They have indicated that they need 50 boxes this year. Haven House is the only domestic violence shelter in Sandoval County. They provide emergency shelter, case management, support groups, life-skill classes, legal advocacy, referral to job opportunities, housing and other supportive services, and therapeutic counseling for both women and their children. If you would like to support this ministry, please mark "Thanksgiving Boxes" on the memo line of your check to the church. We will purchase all the items and assemble the boxes.

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 give each student a \$25 or \$50 gift card depending on how much is donated; so far, we have \$1,300. 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: High Desert has participated in this mission project for several years, where members get a shoebox (any regular size will work), and fill it with toys, hygiene items, school supplies and a donation of \$10 for shipping and bring it to the church. We will take the boxes to Grace Outreach Church during collection week on November 14-21, 2022, for distribution to children in need all around the world. You can assemble your own box (instructions and empty boxes are available in the Narthex) or you can donate \$30 (\$20 for items and \$10 for shipping) to the church and Patty Latter will purchase the items. Last year we collected 88 boxes and our goal this year is 100 boxes. Please mark "Operations Christmas Child" on your memo line.

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.

Thank you to our Pantry Volunteers



Bible Studies, Anyone?

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

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.

Church Cookbooks Coming Soon!



Cost: \$10 each

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

Welcome New Members:

It is a joy to see so many new faces at High Desert. 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 join the membership of High Desert this year: Charlene Brandt, Goldie Buckner, Lou Christen, Dave Duranty, Sue Duranty, John Hannahs, Rudy Hoffman, Natalie Holtgrewe, Vic Holtgrewe, Lynn Hood, Joanna Jones, Brian Kassel, Bill Mason, Cheryl Mason, Rebecca Nordhoff and Wanda Whittlesey-Jerome.

**Blessing of the Animals
Saturday, October 1, 2022, 9:00
AM**



**Church Parking Lot
All pets welcome -
except snakes!**

Women with Purpose

Thursday, October 6, 2022

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

One of our favorite endeavors is Birthday Bash in a Bag for the children of Saranam families. We will welcome Tracy Weaver, Director and CEO of Saranam as our speaker. Just to refresh your memory, Saranam offers housing, counseling, and all kinds of support for homeless families. This means there is at least one child in each family unit and that's where we enter the picture. We virtually pack a birthday party in a gift bag containing cake mix, frosting, candles, party plates, napkins, greeting card and an age-appropriate book. For some of these children, this may be the first birthday party they have ever had. But we have one more bonus this year—two of these children have yet to be brought into this world! We will provide a new layette for the babies (both boys, due in November) in lieu of a 'party.' We are excited about this meeting and hope you are too, so come join us.

HDUMC invites all women to attend our WWP meetings and participate in our 'hands-on' activities. Come and bring a friend – women who don't attend High Desert UMC are welcome to come. Will we see you there? Refreshments provided!

October 2022

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|--|--|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| SS = Sunday School MS = MorningStar | | | | | | 9 AM Blessing of the Animals |
| 2 World Communion 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 3 10 AM Bible Study | 4 | 5 Office Hours 9 AM–12 Noon 10:30 Bible St. 5:30 PM Bible St. & Choir | 6 Women With Purpose 10:00 am | 7 11 -2:00 Food Pantry 5:30-7:30 Church Cookout | 8 |
| 9 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS Reception 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 10 10 AM Bible Study | 11 6 PM Ministry Team Meeting | 12 Office Hours 9 AM – 12 Noon 10:30 Bible St. 5:30 PM Bible St. & Choir | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 17 10 AM Bible Study | 18 9 AM Food Pantry | 19 Office Hours 9 AM – 12 Noon 10:30 Bible St. 5:30 PM Choir (No PM Bible St.) | 20 1 PM Food Pantry | 21 | 22 |
| 23 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 24 10 AM Bible Study | 25 | 26 Office Closed 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir (No PM Bible St.) | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 31 10 AM Bible Study | | | | | |

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Next month: Who was Tertius, in the New Testament?

ANSWER FOR AUGUST: (Who was Dorcas/Tabitha?) From Acts 9:

Dorcas ("Tabitha" in Aramaic) was a Christian woman who lived in the town of Joppa. She cared for the poor by making them clothing. When she died, her friends called for Peter, who came to her home and raised her from the dead, through the power of Christ.

Asbury Pie Café

The Asbury Café is a tradition of the New Mexico State Fair. For over forty years, volunteers have served homemade pies and ice cream to thousands of fair goers. Last year they collected \$37,000 that was distributed to non-profit organizations in Albuquerque that are feeding the homeless. Special thanks to the following individuals who volunteered to serve pies and ice cream on: Friday September 9 from 8 am – 2 pm and Friday September 16 from 2-6 pm: Linn Carlson, Sue Duranty, Wanda Giovengo, Lynn Hood, Bonnie Korngiebel, Glynda Samford, John Samford, Eileen Sever, Randy Sever, and Judy Thomas.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 7 - CHURCH COOKOUT

Join us on Friday October 7 at 5:30 pm for our fall Church Cookout in the church parking lot. We will provide the hamburgers and hotdogs, plus water and lemonade. Bring a side dish to share. Invite a friend or neighbor to join in a great time of fellowship. This is a great chance to get to know each other.



Farewell Reception

On Sunday, October 9, 2022, we will sadly bid farewell to Rey Schuman and Becky Kim, long time members of High Desert UMC. Rey and Becky are moving to Kansas City to be near their family after the loss of Norvin Schuman earlier this year. A reception will be held in their honor between services. We will miss Rey's beautiful singing voice and Becky's kind and caring way with everyone she meets.

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 | 206-4894 |
| Glynda Lester | 10301 Golf Course Rd, SE, Albuquerque, NM | 719-429-2506 |
| Wanda Schierling | 921 Purple Aster, Bernalillo, NM 87004 | 970-398-0501 |



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|----------------------------|---------|
| Mac & Laverna McGrew | Oct. 6 |
| Chuck Coker & Linda Hatley | Oct. 10 |
| Grover & Doris Donahoe | Oct. 12 |
| Mike & Sandie Fawcett | Oct. 18 |
| Rod & Louise Warpole | Oct. 31 |

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| Dann Meyer | Oct. 3 |
| Alice Coate | Oct. 3 |
| Ron Smothermon | Oct. 3 |
| Dave Duranty | Oct. 5 |
| Susan Fullinwider | Oct. 5 |
| Wanda Golsan | Oct. 6 |
| Juanita Smothermon | Oct. 7 |
| John Kottenbrook | Oct. 7 |
| Raj Gandjam | Oct. 9 |
| Kay Boss | Oct. 11 |
| Tara Warrior | Oct. 11 |
| Ken Dewbre | Oct. 11 |
| Mary Lou Schimke | Oct. 14 |
| Leurette Lewis | Oct. 17 |
| Karen Malinka | Oct. 17 |
| Bonnie Chalfant | Oct. 18 |
| Usa Van Doren | Oct. 19 |
| Linda Bates | Oct. 20 |
| Mary Ann Birch | Oct. 23 |
| Joy Rhoades | Oct. 24 |
| Mike Fawcett | Oct. 27 |
| Jenny Kottenbrook | Oct. 28 |
| Kay Anderson | Oct. 29 |

Words that should end with 'Amen':
 "More than anything you guard, protect your mind for your life flows from it".

2023 Church Officers, Approved at Church Conference September 22, 2022

| POSITION | NAME | TERM ENDS | TELEPHONE | EMAIL |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|--|
| Pastor | Reuben Thomas | | 505-554-7834 | rnjthomas@msn.com |
| Lay Leader | John Samford | 12/31/2023 | 505-870-0667 | jsamford@mac.com |
| SPRC | Jeff Pratt | 12/31/2024 | 505-780-2611 | jeffrey.a.pratt@intel.com |
| Finance | Gordon Golsan | 12/31/2023 | 505-235-2674 | wandagordongolsan@gmail.com |
| Trustees | Bruce Packard | 12/31/2023 | 832-349-6885 | bd.packard42@gmail.com |
| Congregational Care | Bonnie Korngiebel | 12/31/2023 | 505-205-3029 | jkorngabel@msn.com |
| Missions | Judy Thomas | 12/31/2024 | 505-908-8922 | rnjthomas@msn.com |
| Spiritual Discipleship | Lisa Isenberger | 12/31/2024 | 505-228-3395 | lisenberger@gmail.com |
| At Large #1 | Patty Latter | 12/31/2024 | 505-934-4346 | pattylatter1@icloud.com |
| At Large #2 | Wanda Giovengo | 12/31/2024 | 505-847-0804 | wanda.giovengo21@yahoo.com |
| Women with Purpose | Wanda Golsan | 12/31/2023 | 505-796-4929 | Wandagordongolsan@gmail.com |
| Recording Secretary | Jana Siverts | 12/31/2024 | 505-514-8338 | jana.siverts@rrps.net |

Delegates to Annual Conference: John Samford and Lisa Isenberger

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Jeff Pratt, Chair (12/31/2024)
 Eileen Sever, (12/31/2024)
 Barry Birch (12/31/2024)
 Rose Meyer (12/31/2024)
 Gordon Golsan (12/31/2023)
 John Samford, Lay Leader (12/31/2023)
 Reuben Thomas, Pastor

Trustees

Bruce Packard, Chair (12/31/2023)
 Lynn Hood (12/31/2024)
 Mike Fawcett (12/31/2024)
 Del Larsen (12/31/2023)
 Linnette Carlson (12/31/2024)
 Dann Meyer (12/31/2024)
 Wanda Giovengo (12/31/2024)

(continued on next page)

2023 Church Officers (Continued from previous page)

Nominations/Leadership Committee

Pastor Reuben Thomas, Chair
Jeff Pratt, Vice-Chair (12/31/2024)
Bonnie Korngiebel (12/31/2023)
John Samford, Lay Leader (12/31/2023)

Finance Committee

Gordon Golsan, Chair (12/31/2023)
Rachelle Luna, Treasurer
Eileen Sever, Financial Secretary
Earlene Price (12/31/2023)
Jeff Pratt, SPRC Chair (12/31/2024)
Bruce Packard, Trustees (12/31/2023)
John Samford, Lay Leader (12/31/2023)
Reuben Thomas, Pastor

Membership Secretary – Linnette Carlson

Communion Stewards – Joyce & Gary Cowles

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.

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

October, 2022 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for October are:

Friday, October 7 at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, October 18 at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 20 at 9:00 a.m.

October Collection: Stuffing and Pie Filling

Contact Mike Fawcett at (715)456-3044

for more information.
