

High Desert United Methodist Church

Monthly Newsletter September 2019

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

A few weeks ago, I preached on Revelation 3:8 – “I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.” I call this the Door of Opportunity. While these words of Jesus were originally addressed to the church at Philadelphia, I believe that they also apply to all of God’s churches. Throughout history God has continued to open doors so that His kingdom may be built here on earth. Thus, He is opening doors for us here at High Desert UMC.

One of these doors is the opportunity to relocate next door at the former Felician Sisters Convent. As I noted in last month’s newsletter, with the convent closing, they approached us about the possibility of using their sanctuary. Over the past seven months of negotiations whenever an obstacle appeared and the door began to shut, it seemed that God put His foot down and kept it open. This relocation will provide us with a beautiful designated worship space and larger classrooms and meeting rooms to expand our programs. In addition, new mission opportunities will open up to us as new tenants move into the building. The first one to move in was a center for pregnant teens. Unfortunately, the senior day care center proposed by Presbyterian Hospital will not be moving in. It is possible that Headstart will be moving into the building. We are already establishing a great working relationship with the remaining Felician Sisters and look forward to future projects with them.

Another door of opportunity has opened up to us at MorningStar. This is a new senior living community that called us after seeing our name on the church bus. We have been asked to conduct weekly Sunday worship services for their residents starting on September 1. Twelve dedicated members of our congregation have stepped forward to answer this call.

Through the efforts of Women with Purpose, another door of opportunity has opened to us for insuring that no child goes hungry over the weekend this school year under Feed New Mexico Kids. On Sunday August 4, 250 packages of food were assembled for the students of Eagle Ridge Middle School here in Rio Rancho. Special thanks to all those who participated in this effort and to Wanda Golsan for her leadership.

The next door that we hope to open will be at University Heights UMC in downtown Albuquerque on Saturday September 28. Our sister church is struggling and we are going to help them reach out to the surrounding community in hope of attracting young families and college students. We will be conducting a one day Vacation Bible School with a cookout and games for children in the church parking lot.

I don’t know what other doors God will open for us in the coming months, but please keep praying that more doors will open and that we will respond as the great prophet Isaiah did when God asked “Who shall I send? And who will go for us? and he said without hesitation: “Here I am! Send me.”

God Bless.

Reuben



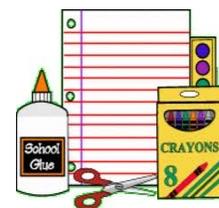
Women with Purpose

Tues. Sept. 3rd
6:00 p.m.
&
Wed. Sept 4th
10:00 a.m.



A resounding 'thank you' goes out to the exceptional congregation of HDUM for their whole-hearted response to Feed New Mexico Kids!

Women With Purpose is teaming up with HDUMC's Missions Committee 'Second Mile of Giving' by combining our efforts to furnish much needed school supplies to elementary age kids in Rio Rancho Public Schools. Not only do we wish to equip every child with the tools they need to



succeed in the school year, but also to take some of the \$\$ pressure off our dedicated teachers who frequently pay for some of these items out of their own pockets. PLEASE BE GENEROUS!

Who is Simeon in the New Testament and why is he important? Luke 2:25-32

MEADOWLARK METHODIST CHURCH PANTRY

We take an offering on the first Sunday of every month to benefit the Food Pantry. On Sunday, Sept. 1st a basket will be on the back table to receive your offering. Featured collection for Sept is:

canned soup

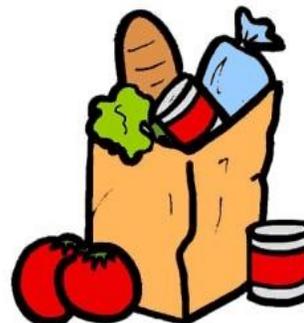
Distribution dates for Sept. are:

Friday, Sept. 6th at 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 17th at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, Sept. 19th at 1:00 p.m.

NOTICE: The Food Pantry is collecting plastic bags again!



One Way to Pray For Walk to Emmaus Pilgrims

First, let me emphasize that there are as many ways to pray as there are people who do the praying. This method happens to be one that suits me. Next, and just as important, is the consideration of the teams who make this unique experience come alive for each pilgrim (active participant). Their SELFLESS giving of time and talent is beyond measure as it is freely given from the heart. Always say a praise prayer for these faith-filled servants at the top of your pilgrim prayers.

If you have a list of FIRST names (or a column of the number) of attendees, keep it close by the quiet place you use for earnest prayer. Remember, every individual at this Walk has a personal life and the everyday strife that goes with it. So, start out with something like this, “Dear gracious and holy giver of all blessings, please hear my petitions for the women who have come to this weekend with open arms to embrace your son Jesus’ loving care. Be with them for every hour they are entrusted to your keeping; remind them that countless Christians are thinking of them and their success.”

Place the list of names (or numbers) in front of you. Close your eyes and quiet your mind in preparation. I find it particularly meaningful to put my finger on each name as I pray for that person. Start with something like, “Lord Jesus, you know your sister servant _____.”

- If she is fearful about her family during this weekend, assure her they are being cared for.
- If she is experiencing any unrest due to health issues, please suspend them and bring her comfort for this weekend.
- If she has financial worries, please put them aside for the next days.
- If she has issues with a child or children, please set them aside so she may find an insight to the peace she seeks.
- If she is suffering a fractured relationship, help her find a way to resolve it.
- If she is seriously questioning your Word, help to banish her doubts.
- If she is dealing with a powerful procrastination, give her the strength to face it down.
- If she is riding the fence over a certain temptation, give her the wisdom to make the best decision for her, then follow it through.
- If there is an uncomfortable situation in the workplace, reassure her she need not face anything alone. Jesus is listening.
- If she is hesitant on how to pray, give her a nudge to let her know there is no wrong or right way to pray. There is just prayer.

This is by no means a complete list of “ifs.” Should you be acquainted with the Emmaus pilgrim, you can make your plea as personal as it can be. That’s the POWER of earnest prayer. Now you are ready for the next name or number. ~ Judy Ballard

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 & 11 a.m. worship <i>10: a.m. SS</i> <i>Bag Com-</i> <i>modites</i>	2	3 1:30 Bible Study WWP 6:00 pm	4 <i>10 am</i> WWP 1:00 Mission Team 6:30 Choir Bible Study	5	6 Food Pantry 11:00 a.m.	7
8 9 & 11 a.m. worship <i>10: a.m. SS</i> <i>Congrega-</i> <i>tional Care</i>	9	10 Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Team Ministry 6:00 p.m.	11 6:30 Choir Bible Study	12	13	14
15 9 & 11 am Worship 10 a.m. SS	16 Church Conference 6:00 p.m.	17 <i>Food</i> <i>Pantry 9 am</i> Bible Study 1:30 pm	18 6:30 Choir Bible Study	19 Food Pantry 1:00 p.m.	20	21
22 9 & 11 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. SS	23	24 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	25 6:30 Choir Bible Study	26	27	28
29 9 & 11 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. SS	30					

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.

Jeanne Buchly	The Retreat, 4100 Jackie Road SE, Rio Rancho NM 87124	
Sheila Arce	4910 Tramway Ridge Dr. NE, #316, Albq. NM 87111	
Wilmoth Chambliss	Avamere, 8820 Horizon Blvd. NE, #202, Alvq. 87113	
Ella Jerome	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	206-4894
Samuel Skinner	920 Riverview Dr. SE, #248, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	
Glen Nesbitt	Advantage Assisted Living, 1729 Wellspring Ave. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	
Phil Pittman	1000 Riverview Dr. SE, #242, Rio Rancho, 87124	301-7704
Mae Washburn	Revenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr NW, Albq. 87120	
Lorra Garner	Skies Healthcare, 9150 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq. 87110	
Nelson & Joey Archuleta	1740 Hudson River Rd. NE, Rio Rancho 87144	235-0774
Norvin Schuman	382 Nicklaus Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-0526
Grover Donahoe	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-0165
Rod & Louise Warpole	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	994-9339
Leonard Ortega	3400 Oasis Springs Road NE, Rio Rancho 87144	296-7330



Birthdays, Con't.

Sheila Smith	9/21
Emily Sue Chambers	9/24
Frankie Harper	9/27

Anniversaries

Skip & EmilySue Chambers	9/2/09
Norvin & Rey Schuman	9/5/54
Cyd & Bob Ahlborn	9/21/73



Please note the occasional change in this announcement: Steelbridge Resource Center (aka Albuquerque Rescue Mission) occasionally changes the focus of its collections/donations to meet their current needs. July 2019 donations: **NEW or gently used seasonal clothing, NEW socks & underwear; toiletries, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, combs.** There will be a container in the hall for your donations. For more info call Sheila Smith at 898-4644.

Scripture Sharing Series— “I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13, NIV. **Linnette Carlson** explains it this way: In this translation I find it interesting that it says '*all this*' rather than '*all things*'. I rely on this verse daily as it reminds me that God is with me, before me, behind me, beside me, above me, and below me *Every day every moment*—no matter what or when he calls me to do something. Whether it's outside my comfort zone or beyond my abilities—I remember these words. This reassurance.



Wesley Change for Charity is on the back table during worship service, waiting to be fed with your change or dollars. This allows High Desert to assist individuals, groups, and organizations with emergency financial needs.



Sept. 2019 collection for Meadowlark Methodist Food Pantry: Items are targeted for you to purchase to help replenish the shelves. Featured this month is: **canned soup**. Please place these items in the green barrel found by the back tables. Contact Mike Fawcett at 715-456-3044 for info.



Recycling Sunday Bulletins—leave in recycling box by the back table; Plastic bags—leave in container marked for plastic bags; Aluminum cans—place in container marked Homeless Ministry. **NEW to HDUMC Recycling: Glass items normally disposed of in your trash. Bring to church and leave in the class/storage room on the counter.**



Condiments & Small Toiletries If you save the soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, etc. from staying in motels or hotels, please bring them to church along with the ketchup, taco sauce, mustard and any “take-out” condiments. The Rainbow Girls who are collecting for the Rio Rancho chapter of Blue Star Mothers to include in the packages they send our troops. For more information, contact Storehouse West at 892-2077.



The Upper Room This Daily Devotional Guide is available in regular and large print. Copies may be found Sunday mornings on the back table. Be sure to get your copy! Or read online: <http://devotional.upperroom.org/>



Printer Cartridges is a fund raiser to support Mission projects. Please place your empty inkjet & laser cartridges in the recycling box found on the back table.



UPC Labels for 2 schools in Rio Rancho. There is a large jar for your labels are provided on the back table on Sunday mornings.



Pull Tabs Save the pull tabs from your aluminum cans, soup cans, etc. You can put them in a ziplock bag and leave them on the table in the back of the church. For more info call Janet Greger at 867-4832 Presently they will go to the Ronald McDonald House charity.

9 AM Service					
<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>
Sept. 1	Pamela Lee Judy Ballard	Dann & Jody Meyer	Erlene Price	Erlene Price	Lael Wellington & Sue Hill
Sept. 8	Bob & Cyd Ahlborn	Dottie & Earl Hester	Randy Sever	Francie Larson	Beckie Kim
Sept. 15	Ken & Wanda Shierling	Judy Ballard Glenda Barber	Chuck Schimke	Jane Ferguson	Jan Herrington
Sept. 22	Emily Sue Chambers Trixie MacLay	Pamela Lee Sue Hinchcliffe	Skip Chambers		
Sept. 29	Warren Herrington Bryce Hendricks	Ken & Sandy Dewbre	Tony Smith	Pamela Lee	
		11 AM Service			
Sept. 1	Nancy Perry-Sebrell	Lisa Isenberger Rose Meyer	Ron Komatz		
Sept. 8	Lisa Isenberger	Gloria Graham Nancy Perry-Sebrell	Bonnie Korngiebel		
Sept. 15	Gloria Graham	Jenny Kottenbrook Bonnie Korngiebel	Janet Greger		
Sept. 22	Holly Benson	Rose Meyer Karen Malinka	Lisa Isenberger		
Sept. 29	Nancy Perry-Sebrell	Karen Malinka Gloria Graham	Bonnie Korngiebel		

With Heartfelt Thanks Thank you to the following who provided for the HDUMC Ministries last month.

9:00 a.m. Service

Greeters: Mike & Sandy Fawcett, Paul Lewis, David Zapf, Ken & Sandy Dewbre, Harold & Judy Sampson

Ushers: Skip & Emily Sue Chambers, Chuck & Mary Lou Schimke, Bill & Kay Boss, Gordon & Wanda Golsan

Liturgists: Keith Witt, Barry Birch, Warren Herrington, Jane Butel

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeters: Holly Benson, Gloria Graham, Nancy Perry-Sebrell, Lisa Isenberger

Ushers: Bonnie Korngiebel, Rose Meyer, Lisa Isenberger, Karen Malinka, Gloria Graham, Nancy Perry-Sebrell

Liturgists: Ron Komatz, Janet Greger, Bonnie Korngiebel, Lisa Isenberger,

Altar Flowers: Arlene Westgaard, Bonnie Korngiebel, Ken & Sandy Dewbre

Refreshments: Jan Herrington for birthday cakes! Ken & Sandy Dewbre

Those named and those not named above, thank you all so much for your continued support.

HDUMC BULLETIN BOARD



Boo-hoo! HDUMC has hit a bit of a snag in our plans to shift our 'church' next door. Some sort of legal verbiage to sort out and make right. Delays are not always received with grace, but we must remember God's timing is perfect. Be patient, folks! We will be enjoying that wonderful sanctuary soon!



A great big **thank-you** goes out to Sheryl Clouse who made those very welcome hymnal bookmarks for us to mark our songs. So professional – looking! Sheryl is the daughter of Sity & Don Roach.



Future of the United Methodist Church. Bishop Bledsoe is holding listening sessions throughout NM and NW Texas Conferences on the future of our denomination. The Albq. District session is set for Sept. 22 from 3-5 pm at St. John's UMC in Santa Fe. If you are interested, please see Reuben.



There are sign-up sheets on the back table (there are always sign-up sheets for something!) for you to volunteer to serve your church as a worship 'servant.' Sign up for either an usher or greeter. These are vital duties to keep our church active. Please consider this service as a privilege.

Weekly Bible Study: A study subject for everyone! Presently three groups meet during the week: Adult Bible Study (aka Adult Sunday School comes together at 10:00 a.m. between Services. Tuesday afternoon Bible Study meets at 1:30 p.m. to study the NT book of Hebrews to be followed by Colossians then Philemon.

Wednesday evening Bible Study is starting an overview on the New Testament; the time will coincide with choir practice.



Sign on a Presbyterian Marquee:

EVEN
GOOGLE
ASKS
QUESTIONS . . .

GUESS WHO HAS ALL
THE ANSWERS . . .

Judy sez . . .
Items for next
Newsletter
due by Sept. 24th.



TRUST

By Arlene Westgaard

I trust my awesome Lord
Because I know His Word.
His Spirit Who dwells within
Whispers for me to listen to Him.

The things that I can't change
Are not outside His range.
The power to change the things I can
Are entrusted to His perfect plan.
And Godly wisdom comes to me
From His Word to set me free.
Wisdom from my faithful friends
Is a blessing that never ends.

So . . .

I trust Him in my daily walk
To direct my actions and my talk.
I trust Him and His gracious love
To prepare my Heavenly home above.

Editor's note: Trust is the epitome of our personal relationship with our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. This poem is the result of a challenge by me to Arlene to share the nuances of her trust in Him. What a marvelous job!

*What does **your** trust in faith mean to you? Would you be willing to share a snippet or essay (short!) or poem about how trust in God and His Holy Son Jesus impacts your everyday life? Not only am I interested, but others in our congregation would be, too. Sharing your intimate faith brings only benefits; there is no downside. Call me!*

Points to ponder . . .

- Why are there so many old people in church? They are cramming for the final.
- Don't put a question mark where God put a period.
- Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
- Best mathematical equation:
 $1 \text{ cross} + 3 \text{ nails} = 4\text{-given}$

Did you know . . .

One of our members, Diane Youells is a hairstylist licensed for in-home beauty services. Her offerings include perms, haircuts, and styling. Reasonable prices. If anyone in your family is homebound, this could be an answer to a prayer. Call Diane at 505-818-3210



HIGH DESERT UMC

4200 Meadowlark Lane SE Ste 6
Rio Rancho, New Mexico 87124
Office Hours: Tues-Fri 9a.m.-Noon & 1-3 p.m.
Phone: 505-891-4206; Fax: 505-891-4460
Email: highdesertumc@cableone.net

Church E-Mail Addresses:

<i>Church:</i>	highdesertumc@cableone.net
<i>Pastor Reuben:</i>	rnjthomas@msn.com
<i>Jenny Kottenbrook:</i>	highdesertumc@cableone.net
<i>Frank Rotolo</i>	frnkrtl@hotmail.com
<i>Arlene Westgaard:</i>	arleneruth@hotmail.com
<i>Jeff Pratt, Bus driver:</i>	Jeffrey.a.pratt@intel.com
<i>Judy Ballard, Newsletter:</i>	highdesertumc@cableone.net or writingwroom@msn.com (Judy)



"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