

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

# HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS*

September 2021, Issue 9

In July, we discussed that each of us is called to make a difference for the Lord and to leave this world better than we found it. At the end of the worship service on July 25, each person in attendance was given a \$10 bill and asked to pass it on by some act of kindness. I have been amazed by the responses and how you have used this small amount of money to spread God's love around our community. Listed below are the unique ways that these funds were used (please note that multiple people participated in some acts):

1. The Monday Bible Study with the assistance of others had the apartment of one individual cleaned and helped fund the training of his new service dog.
2. \$125 donated to Cal Farley Boys Ranch.
3. \$200 for a scholarship for a participant of the September Walk to Emmaus.
4. To KRQE Cares for shoes for school children.
5. To Road Runner Food Bank; each \$1 donated distributes up to 5 meals.
6. To Doctor without Borders.
7. For the purchase of school supplies for local schools and the Four Corners.
8. Assembled schools supply kits for elementary students.
9. To Feed New Mexico Kids.
10. Bought stuffing for bears for the bears and blankets project.
11. To a "Go Fund Me" to help repair an ill neighbor's swamp cooler.
12. A dozen roses for residents of memory care unit at Brookdale Assisted Living.
13. Appreciation basket for frontline staff at Epiphany Dermatology.
14. Lunch for a homeless lady.
15. Paid for the prescription for an elderly person.
16. Put \$10 for lunch on the windshield of disabled veteran.
17. \$20 to a single unemployed mother for gas to go to an interview.
18. Lunch for a couple and school supplies.
19. \$40 for lunch for a couple; found out that the woman's sister had died the day before.
20. \$30 to Chaplain's Fund.
21. To a little girl who was having a birthday party at the restaurant.
22. Lunch for elderly lady at Arby's.
23. \$20 to Sandoval County Housekeepers.
24. Paid for meals of those with special needs.
25. Purchased food for High Desert Methodist Food Pantry.
26. Bought material to make baby items for Haven House.
27. Gift card for a neighbor who is struggling financially.
28. To food program at Meadowlark Senior Center.
29. To "Joni and Friends of New Mexico" to pass the gospel on to people with disabilities.
30. To Route Replenish which provides snacks to children while awaiting placement in foster homes by CYFD.
31. \$35 to Rio Rancho Friends of Library retail store to help seniors with purchases.
32. Given to the daughter of a neighbor's caretaker.
33. To Interfaith Bible Center.
34. \$20 and thank you card to woman who works at Albertson's.
35. To support Sandoval County Meal Program which provides 700 meals/day. To Gift Basket Ministry.
36. To Gift Basket Ministry
37. Purchased books for students at Vista Grande Elementary School.
38. To college student working way through school.
39. To Paralyzed Veterans of America.
40. Provided a chalk board to a "special needs classroom."

Isn't this an impressive list of spreading God's love; to fulfilling Jesus' command to love our neighbor. Please don't let this be this a one-time event, let's continually look for opportunities to pass God's love on as He gives us opportunities. God Bless.

*Reuben*

## My Emmaus Walk by Eileen Sever

Randy and I joined Mesa View UMC in 1987. We were a core of the founding members of this church. We immediately became involved in choir and youth group, as we had two sons that were part of the youth activities. Our second Sunday after we joined, the organist quit. I was asked to step up and take over playing for services.

This was an active church with many children and youth. We put on youth musicals, and the children did pageants at Christmas and Easter.

Emmaus was just beginning to be promoted at our church. Randy and I eventually decided to take our walks. Randy went to his Emmaus Walk in 1992 and I followed in 1993. At that time, many of our congregation were involved in Emmaus and very supportive of those that chose to go.

My Emmaus Walk was held in Las Cruces, at a Catholic Nunnery, Holy Cross. I was terrified, as I had no idea what this weekend would be like. I had a friend from church who went with me, which helped. We arrived on a Thursday afternoon, and by Friday, I was so showered with love I couldn't believe. The experiences provided were relatable and so filled with love from strangers, kindness, soul searching and FOOD! We would not go hungry!

Many emotions came to the forefront for me. I had given my life to Christ when I was 12. Had always read my Bible, went to Sunday School, Church Services...every Sunday. But I never felt the love of Christ as much as I did that weekend. I was overwhelmed. Luckily, we were given plenty of time either in groups or alone to deal with the thought and feelings that we had. I felt cleansed, relaxed, loved, and renewed in my spirit and relationship with Christ.

As we finished the weekend, our group, called Pilgrims, had finished our spiritual walk. We were forever connected. We shared what the weekend had meant to us. We laughed and we cried. The support we were given by the Emmaus Team who had already done their walks, was beyond wonderful. The emotions we had been through as we drew closer to God and Christ, was supported by the Emmaus Team when we needed help sorting out our feelings.

I came out of that weekend with such renewed spirit, with a deeper connection to my faith and to God, that has stayed with me to this day. I look fondly at that weekend and have continued to be active in the Emmaus community. It is a group that will stay with me the rest of my life.

If you are led to have a renewal of your spirit and relationship with Christ, I strongly suggest you take your Emmaus Walk. It will be life changing for you!

Walk to Emmaus Men's weekend (9/16-19  
and Women's Weekend 9/23-26  
APPLICATIONS STILL BEING ACCEPTED  
AND NEEDED – If you are interested please  
contact Pastor Reuben, Linn Carlson, Randy  
or Eileen Sever





Our “Angels Among Us” this month is two-fold and goes out to Joanne Claybrook and Emily Sue Chambers! Have you been to the Church office on Wednesday mornings? If you have then you know about the two Office Volunteers flying around the office, being Linnette’s and Judy’s right hands. They are Joanne and Emily Sue. Yes, they are making copies, preparing bulletins, and pretty much anything that is needed. Both Joanne and Emily Sue are involved in so many other things at the church, but one of the biggest blessings they give us are their smiles and “How are you’s” to anyone who enters the office. **THANK YOU, Ladies, for taking time out of your busy days and for all you do!**



### UPDATE FROM THE EDITOR:

Back to our “Angels Among Us” If you have someone you think deserves to be our Angel of the month, let me know.

[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, “Purpose-Driven Life”, Rick Warren (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

## WOMEN WITH PURPOSE

Meeting Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM in HDUMC Sanctuary

This month (Sept 2) we have 2 major projects. We will assemble 30 toiletry bags for our Four Corners Ministry as well as 16 lovely purses for A Peaceful Habitation. God’s work-our hands!!!



August 5, 2021

Michael and Sandra Fawcett  
3024 Laurel Meadows Drive  
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Fawcett,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$20 to Roadrunner Food Bank. Your generosity has made so much possible and aided in ensuring that it is a hunger-free summer for our neighbors statewide. We appreciate the bright spot you have created in the lives of families continuing to cope with loss due to the pandemic.

We met Veronica at one of our summer sites. She just so happened to be passing by a park with her children in the car when she came across one of our special food distributions. She shared, "I feel so blessed that I saw the sign for this food distribution by chance. My husband was the breadwinner for our family and he got sick with coronavirus and passed away. I desperately need the help to feed my daughters."

Hunger rates in New Mexico remain higher than they were pre-pandemic. Many are grappling with additional stressors exacerbated by not having enough to eat. Your continued support fosters a greater peace of mind for individuals like Veronica who can now put food on the table for their families. Veronica told us, "I am thankful for Roadrunner Food Bank and the kindness shown to my family. Receiving this food does not feel like a hand out, it feels like a hand up. It really is a wonderful thing."

We would love to hear from you. Let us know what inspires you to donate to Roadrunner Food Bank. You can email us at [info@rrfb.org](mailto:info@rrfb.org) or call (505) 226-5679 and leave a voice message about why giving is important to you. Thank you for your contribution and for being part of our extended hunger-relief network in New Mexico. Because of you, we are able to provide essential food assistance to our neighbors across the state.

In gratitude,

Mag Strittmatter  
President and CEO

*No goods or services were provided by Roadrunner Food Bank in consideration, in whole or in part, for the contribution indicated above. Roadrunner Food Bank's Tax ID is 85-0278525.*



**Albuquerque**  
5840 Office Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
Phone: 505•247•2052  
Fax: 505•242•6471

**Las Cruces**  
505 S. Main, Suite 149 A  
Las Cruces, NM 88001  
Phone: 575•523•4390  
[www.rrfb.org](http://www.rrfb.org)



*I am continuously humbled by the  
generosity of this congregation.  
Thank you so much for the gift card!  
Now - "which book to buy?"*

*Jana Sivertz*



Dot Wimbish



Dan & Robin Foley

**NEW FACES in "Our Place"**

**WELCOME TO HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



Rev. Mac & Laverna  
McGrew



Ronald & Juanita  
Smotherman

# OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



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

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

Answer: 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.

## SEPTEMBER SECOND MILE GIVING READWEST

Our Second Mile Giving for September is ReadWest which has been serving Rio Rancho for over 20 years. ReadWest is a non-profit adult literacy agency which provides free tutoring for adults in basic reading and English as a second language. One out of every five adults in New Mexico reads below the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level. Following street signs, reading bus schedules, filling out job applications, or reading prescriptions labels can be very frustrating and even frightening to an adult who struggles to read. ReadWest helps adult learners of English with basic vocabulary, communications for many life and cultural situations as well as helps them to become literate in reading and writing English.

Normally students meet one-on-one with a trained tutor once a week for two hours. The cost to train and support a tutor is close to \$150. The cost to provide instruction to a student is close to \$240. Your donation will help improve the literacy of the members of our community, thus allowing them to live more productive and enriched lives. To make a donation, please write "ReadWest" on the memo line of your check to the church.

# September 2021



## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Choir practice Wednesdays at

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	2 <b>WWP 10AM</b>	3 Food Pantry 11AM to 2PM	4
5 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	6 11 AM Bible Study <b>LABOR DAY</b>	7 <b>Ministry Meeting 6PM</b>	8 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	9	10	11 <b>20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11</b>
12 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS <b>Isotopes Game</b>	13 11 AM Bible Study	14	15 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	16 Food Pantry 1 to 4 PM	17	18
19 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	20 11 AM Bible Study	21 Food Pantry 9 to Noon	22 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	23	24	25
26 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	27 11 AM Bible Study	28	29 Bible Study 10:30 AM 5:30 PM Bible Study	30		



### **HDUMC AND HEIFER INTERNATIONAL!**

Congratulations HDUMC – through your second mile giving, you all donated an **AMAZING \$2,260** so that HDUMC was able to purchase **5 Heifers and 3 goats**. International focus is “Ending poverty begins with agriculture. Their mission is to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities.

**HEIFER INTERNATIONAL – UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL: God’s timing & putting the right people in the right place!** In 2000, on my first mission trip I had an up close & hands on experience with a soon to be Momma heifer in Nicaragua! We were in Casa Blanca, Nicaragua building cinder block house in the aftermath of a hurricane and then aftermath floods.

It was typically 114 degrees & we would come in for our lunch of beans, rice & tortillas each day, take a brief 15-20 siesta to rebuild our endurance before returning to the work site. That particular day, we were late & ended up being in our housing area in the village a little later than usual. Soon some panicked villagers came running to us indicating that a Momma heifer was in serious trouble trying to give birth to her calf. Long story short – Momma had been out in the fields when she went into labor many hours earlier. They had gotten her back to the village, but she was in trouble & distressed. The only person in the village that knew how to handle this situation was not there that day. Two of the calf’s hoofs had been visible for a long time & she was not able to deliver her baby. At that point it was assumed that the calf was likely no longer alive & concern and efforts focused on saving the Momma.

So, what did I know about pulling a calf? Nothing but God had placed the right people in the right place at the right time! My 2 roommates were veterinarian tech’s & had grown up on ranches! I didn’t have the knowledge or experience, but I had strength. With most of the village surrounding the pen & watching, the three of us, with no gloves, supplies, equipment other than a rope were going to try to pull that baby calf, as we were now at risk of losing the Momma. After a long struggle, we were able to pull the calf out of its Momma. One of the vet techs grabbed the baby by its hind hooves & began to swing it rapidly in a circle – trying to clear the babies air passages. Well, God is good! To everyone’s surprise, baby was alive, but very weak. We were able to deliver the afterbirth, etc. Momma was very uncomfortable & not really wanting the baby to come too close & nurse! We were able to secure Momma’s back legs so baby could nurse with one of use holding the baby up as he too weak to stand. Through the night, we took shifts every 2 hours to go & help the baby nurse to build up strength. We named the calf “Rabbit” because of his big ears! He was REALLY CUTE!

We later learned that this Momma heifer was a Heifer International heifer given to the village. The vital importance of this animal & her calf to the village was so real and tangible. Also learned that the village relied on Momma’s milk for the village children! To be able to participate in such a way that helped prevent the losing either one of them was an experience of a lifetime and one that the makes me appreciate this important and vital ministry. **PRAISE GOD!**

*Linnette Carlson*





**“RABBIT”**



**LINETTE CARLSON IN  
NICARAGUA**

# **PASTOR REUBEN'S BOOK REVIEWS:**

## **BOOKS READ VACATION 2021**

### ***Words of Life* by Adam Hamilton**

What if the Ten Commandments were not just a set of ancient rules but also a guide to experiencing the good life today. Jesus saw these commandments not as burdens, a list of “thou shalt not’s,” but as guideposts to help us experience a good and beautiful life. This book examines the commandments in their historical context – considering the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, unpacking how Jesus interpreted them, and showing how every “thou shalt not” was intended to point to a life giving “thou shalt.”

### ***Jesus the King* by Timothy Keller**

Keller unlocks new insights into the life of Jesus Christ as he explores how Jesus came as a king, but a king who had to bear the greatest burden anyone ever has. Keller shows how the story of Jesus is at once cosmic, historical and personal, calling each of us to look anew at our personal relationship with God. I found this book to be a commentary on the Gospel of Mark; the author walks you through Mark with insights into the events and teachings of Jesus. I will definitely use this book as a reference for future sermons from Mark.

### ***Tempered Resilience* by Tod Bolsinger**

During my vacations, I like to read different types of books such as inspiration, Biblical teaching and leadership. For leadership, I chose *Tempered Resilience*; I had read the author’s earlier book entitled *Canoeing the Mountains* in 2018. In *Tempered Resilience*, he explores the qualities of adaptive leadership in contexts ranging from churches to nonprofit organizations. He explains both the external challenges we face today and the internal resistance in all churches that hold us back. In this book, he uses the art of blacksmithing to describe how to promote change in a church or organization by showing how raw iron is shaped into something useful such as a knife or chisel.

### ***The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller**

Keller is an outstanding biblical teacher; I always gain new insights from his books. In this book he opens up new interpretations from the Parable of the Prodigal Son which he states may be called the Parable of Two Sons. Keller uses one of the best-known Christian parables to reveal the message of Christianity: grace, hope and salvation. The story tells us about two brothers, each of whom represents a different way to be alienated from God and a different way to seek acceptance into the kingdom of heaven. Keller notes that it is a mistake to think that Jesus tells this story primarily to assure the younger brother of His unconditional love. The targets of this story are not “wayward sinners” but religious people who do everything that the Bible requires; those who try to earn their salvation. The message of the Bible is that the human race is a band of exiles trying to come home. The Parable of the Prodigal Son is about every one of us.

# 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

## Billy Graham: 3 Lessons to Learn from 9/11

By [Billy Graham](#) • September 10, 2019 *Three days after the United States was attacked on September 11, 2001, Billy Graham spoke words of peace and healing to a shocked nation at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. His timeless remarks can speak to us today—19 years later—as a country that still has much to learn in this ever-changing world.*

*The following are three lessons from 9/11, based off Mr. Graham's speech:*

### **1. We may not understand why tragedy occurs, but we must realize God did not create evil.**

"I have been asked hundreds of times why God allows tragedy and suffering. I have to confess that I do not know the answer. I have to accept, by faith, that God is sovereign, and that He is a God of love and mercy and compassion in the midst of suffering.

"The Bible says God is not the Author of evil. In 1 Thessalonians 2:7 the Bible talks about the mystery of iniquity. The Old Testament Prophet Jeremiah said, 'The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.'"

### **2. We need each other.**

"What an example New York and Washington have been to the world these past few days! None of us will forget the pictures of our courageous firefighters and police, or the hundreds of people standing patiently in line to donate blood.

"A tragedy like this could have torn our country apart, but instead it has united us. So those perpetrators who took this on to tear us apart, it has worked the other way—it has backlashed. We are more united than ever before. I think this was exemplified in a very moving way when the members of our Congress stood shoulder to shoulder and sang, 'God Bless America.'"

### **3. There is hope beyond this world.**

"Yes, there is hope. There is hope for the present because the stage, I believe, has already been set for a new spirit in our nation.

"We desperately need a spiritual renewal in this country, and God has told us in His Word time after time that we need to repent of our sins and return to Him, and He will bless us in a new way.

"There also is hope for the future because of God's promises. As a Christian, I have hope, not just for this life, but for heaven and the life to come. And many of those people who died this past week are in heaven now. And they wouldn't want to come back. It's so glorious and so wonderful. That is the hope for all of us who put our faith in God. I pray that you will have this hope in your heart.

"This event reminds us of the brevity and the uncertainty of life. We never know when we too will be called into eternity. I doubt if those people who got on those planes or who walked into the World Trade Center or the Pentagon on Tuesday thought that it would be the last day of their lives. And that's why we each must face our own spiritual need and commit ourselves to God and His will.



## 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>Sheila Arce</b>	4910 Tramway Ridge Dr. NE, #318, Albq. NM 87111	
<b>Lois Brister</b>	2867 Cripple Creek Drive SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	892-7987
<b>Grover Donahoe</b>	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	220-3839
<b>Mac Esquibel</b>	4544 Aguila Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-1469
<b>Lorra Garner</b>	Genesis, 9150 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq. 87114	408-722-6482
<b>Pat McMillan</b>	920 Riverview DR SE, Apt. #163, Rio Rancho, NM	828-331-0963
<b>Phil Pittman</b>	C/O Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NW Room 28, Albuquerque, NM 87120	
<b>Mary Lou Schimke</b>	7927 Jamestown Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114-4498	898-5911
<b>Norvin Schuman</b>	382 Nicklaus Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-0526
<b>Norma Skinner</b>	1809 Beck Street, Bryan, TX 77803	
<b>Rod &amp; Louise Warpole</b>	10301 Golf Course Rd NW, #1190, Albuquerque, NM 87114	382-9706
<b>Mae Washburn</b>	Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr NW, Albq. 87120	



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

Joey Archuleta	9/2
Mike Bates	9/2
Wilmoth Chambliss	9/2
Sheryl Clouse	9/3
Don Roach	9/3
Louise Philson	9/3
Paul Meyer	9/3
Francie Larsen	9/7
Sheila Arce	9/8
Glenn Hinchcliffe	9/11
Lynn Hood	9/19
Sheila Smith	9/21
Emily Sue Chambers	9/24
Steve Lamoreux	9/28

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



Skip & Emily Sue Chambers	9/4/2009
Norvin & Rey Schuman	9/5/1954
Earl & Sakorn (Usa) Van Doren	9/7/1972
Gary & Joyce Cowles	9/18/1971
Joel & April Salisbury	9/18

Happy birthday! Happy birthday!



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS. . . .

**Saturday, October 2,  
2021**

**9:00 AM**

**In Church Parking Lot**

**All pets welcome.**



## GETTING TO KNOW

YOU (by Dottie Hester)

### **Don Shannon**

One of our newest members, Don Shannon and his dog Rosie, attend our 11:00 service. Don was raised in Minnesota where his dad was pastor at an Assembly of God Church. Don attended Mankato State University where he received a degree in accounting. While he was still in high school, he went to Kenya to live with his aunt and uncle for nine months. They were missionaries there which was a start for Don's interest in missionary work. Don had a CPA office in the Minneapolis area where he and his wife raised 3 boys. Don has traveled extensively since his retirement from his CPA work to 30 different countries with a mission work in mind each time which he believes was arranged by God each time. He was asked several times to help with business plans by the Free Methodist Church. Don suffers from PTSD at this time and his dog Rosie is being trained as a Service Dog for him. Don is looking for a purpose at this time and, hopefully, he can find this at HDUMC.



---

# High Desert United Methodist Church

1201 Golf Course Road  
Rio Rancho, NM 87174  
Office Hours: Wednesday 9-12  
Phone: 505-891-4206;  
Email:  
highdesertumc@outlook.com

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)

---

## HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

**Distribution dates for September are:**

**Friday, September 3rd - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**Thursday, September 16th – 9am to noon**

**Tuesday, September 21st – 1pm to 4pm**

**Featured collection for September is: Cake Mixes and Frosting**

---