

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

September, 2023, Issue 9

By now, you should realize that one of the main themes of my messages and ministry is establishing and strengthening our personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. As one of my sons once told me, it's a relationship not a religion. It's not about rituals, ceremonies, and doctrine; it's a one-on-one relationship with the Lord. If your faith and beliefs are based on the order of worship on Sunday morning, communion, and the rules and regulations of the church, then you are not truly experiencing God and His Son Jesus Christ. You are missing out on the love and privilege that God offers to each one of us.

When Jesus died on the cross at Calvary, the veil in the Temple was torn from top to bottom signifying that everyone now has direct access to God. Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah 31:33-34 when God said: "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying: 'Know the Lord.' Because they will all know me

from the least to the greatest." In the beginning, God created Adam and Eve, humanity, for companionship. In John 15:15, Jesus told His disciples that He would no longer consider them servants, but friends. Our Lord and Savior desires to be our friend, to have a personal relationship with each one of us.

Relationship is defined as the way two or more people are connected. Or the way people regard or behave toward each other. If God wants a personal relationship with us, how do we establish this relationship? First, you have to open up your heart to God and His Son Jesus and invite them in. God has already taken the first step by sending Jesus to die for our sins. Now we must take the next step by asking Him into our daily lives. If there are 1,000 steps between us and God, God will take 999. The last step is up to us.

Once we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, what's the next step? As all of us know, you have to work at a relationship. You should grow closer over time. Remember a relationship is a state of being connected. We remain connected by spending time with each other, getting to know each other. That's why having a daily quiet time of prayer and Bible reading is so essential to growing in your

relationship. If you haven't established this habit, I strongly encourage you.

As in any relationship, you grow closer as you get to know each other better. And the best way to get to know Jesus and His Father is to get involved in a weekly Bible study. This fall we are offering four excellent Bible studies: the Sunday morning class is studying the Gospel of Luke; the Monday morning class is studying *40 Days through the Book of Acts*; the Wednesday morning is studying the Holy Spirit and the Psalms; and the Wednesday evening class is studying *The Story*, the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Find one you like and get involved!

Let me end with a serious question: "Do you know Jesus as a friend or is He a stranger to you?" Would He recognize you? On Judgment Day, will He know you by your first name? Remember there are no name tags in heaven! Don't miss the opportunity. Establish and strengthen your personal relationship with the Lord.

God Bless, Reuben

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Who was Mordecai?
Find the answer elsewhere in this issue.

Bible Studies Available

To help us grow spiritually in our personal relationship with Christ, High Desert UMC is offering the following Bible studies this fall. Please join one of the following studies in the classroom.

SUNDAY 10 AM: Studying The Gospel of Luke, Topical Bible Studies, Led by Tony Smith.

MONDAY 9 AM: Studying "40 Days Through the Book of Acts" by Randy Frazee. Class is led by Francie Larsen.

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: Starting September 6. Led by John Kottenbrook, will begin studying the Holy Spirit and the Psalms.

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: Studying the entire Bible using "The Story", by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee. Led by Reuben Thomas

AT FAIRWINDS: Tony Smith leads a Bible Study at Fairwinds each week.

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.

PODCASTS: "Footsteps" Available on the church website.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



A Night at the Opera: On Sunday, August 20, a group of 19 traveled to Santa Fe for a tailgate box supper and a performance of "Apprentice Scenes" at the Santa Fe Opera. Ric Speed expertly drove the bus, plus some folks took their own cars. We hope to make this an annual event.

The September outing is an afternoon at the **baseball game:** September 10th at the Isotopes. Those who signed up to ride the bus, please be at the church, ready to leave at 12 noon. Until next time, Ken Dewbre, Fellowship Committee Chairperson

Words that should end with "Amen": Sustained Consistency is preferable to sporadic intensity.

Discipleship Corner

A monthly feature by Lisa Isenberger

Worshiping in Spirit and Truth

When Jesus spoke to the woman at the well, He explained the importance of worshiping in spirit and truth.

John 4:23-24 (ESV) - 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

As disciples, Jesus' teaching to worship in spirit and truth applies to us as well. But what does that mean? First, it involves loving the Lord with all of our heart, soul, and strength. Without a heartfelt passion for God, worship lacks spirit. However, worship also involves knowledge of the love and grace offered by God through Jesus. Without an understanding of who He is and what He has done, worship lacks truth. As Jesus explained, authentic worship stems from a heart overflowing in spirit and mind grounded in truth.

This month, I challenge you to worship God the way that Jesus instructed the woman at the well. Reflect on who He is, what He has done, and all of His promises. Whether you worship in loud and expressive ways or through quiet meditations, let your worship involve your whole heart, mind, and soul for the one who is worthy of our praise.

Prayer: Loving Father, thank you for all that You have done for me. It is my desire to worship You in spirit and in truth, just as You told the woman at the well. Fill me with Your Spirit. Teach me Your truth. Move me to worship You with my whole heart, mind, and soul. In Jesus's name, AMEN.

Answer to "Obscure Names in the Bible":

Mordecai was the cousin of Queen Esther. He raised Esther, guided her when she became queen, and uncovered a conspiracy to assassinate the king. With Mordecai's guidance, Esther was able to save her people. For more of the story, read the book of Esther, especially chapter 7.

Operation Christmas Child – this month's suggested donations for filling the boxes are: hygiene items. These may be left in the container in the Narthex.

SEPTEMBER SECOND MILE GIVING: READWEST, INC.

One out of every five New Mexico adults reads below the fifth grade level. Simple everyday tasks can present real problems. Following street signs, reading bus schedules, filling out job applications or reading prescription labels can be frustrating and even frightening to an adult who struggles to read.

ReadWest helps adult learners of English with basic vocabulary communication for many life and cultural situations as well as helps them to become literate in reading and writing English.

ReadWest Inc. is a non-profit adult literacy agency providing one-to-one tutoring sessions by trained certified volunteers. It is estimated that it costs \$150 to train and support a volunteer tutor and \$240 to provide instruction to a student. Through dedicated volunteers and donations, ReadWest strives to improve the literacy of the members of our community, thus allowing them to live more productive and enriched lives.

You can support this worthwhile ministry during September by writing "ReadWest" on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your continued support of our mission programs

Women with Purpose

Finally! Women with Purpose will gather on Thursday, September 7 at 10 AM in the church sanctuary to do what we do best. We will sing, hear a wonderful message, eat yummy snacks and, as always, assemble items to share with those who need them. Earlene Price will be our devotional leader this year, and Judy Sampson will be in charge of recruiting snack providers. Wanda Golsan will continue to take leadership of our mission projects. We have two projects this month: We will fill 10 purses with girl stuff to be given to the women at A Peaceful Habitation, and we will also gather school supplies for Pastor Chris Davis in Gallup. It will be so good to be together again. Plan to join us, and bring a friend.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

World Communion Sunday is observed on the first Sunday in October. The day calls the Church to be the universal, inclusive Church. The day was first observed by Presbyterians in 1936, adopted by Federal Council of Churches in 1940, and shortly thereafter observed in Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches. On this Sunday we celebrate our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Join us on October 1 as we celebrate the Lord's Supper with Christians all over the world. Antonio Trujillo, principal of St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel and former Franciscan priest, will be delivering the message.



THE STORY

The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People

On August 30, 2023, our Wednesday Night Bible Class began a nine-month journey through the entire Bible using the *The Story* by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee. Condensed into 31 accessible chapters, *The Story* sweeps you into the unfolding progression of Bible characters and events from Genesis to Revelation. *The Story* is different from your traditional versions of the Bible in that it is written as a novel with all the duplication taken out, allowing you to more easily follow the story of the Bible in a chronological order. The texts were chosen to retain the overall flow of the narrative, so that you get a sense of the “big picture” of the Bible. *The Story* will help you understand who God is, who we are, and the meaning and purpose of life. Each Wednesday night, we will discuss each chapter in detail. If you want to learn more about the Bible, the greatest story ever written, it’s not too late to come and join us.

CHURCH COOKOUT

DATE: Friday October 6, 2023

TIME: 5 – 7 pm

LOCATION: Church Parking Lot



We will provide hotdogs and hamburgers (and buns) with water, lemonade and ice tea. Please bring a dish to share. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for your dish and how you can help with the cookout. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors.

ASBURY 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 around \$40,000 that was distributed to non-profit organizations in Albuquerque that are feeding the homeless. Special thanks to the following individuals who have volunteered to serve pies and ice cream on Thursday, September 7 from 2 pm – 7

pm and Friday September 8 from 8:45 am – 2 pm: Linn Carlson, Sue Duranty, Wanda Giovengo, Lynn Hood, Lisa Isenberger, Bonnie Korngiebel, Patty Latter, Bruce Packard, Glynda Samford, John Samford, Ric Speed, Judy Thomas, and Wanda Whittlesey-Jerome. Come to the State Fair and enjoy some pie and ice cream during these times to support this great ministry.



SEPTEMBER

2023

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|----------|
| | | | | | 1 11 AM – 2 PM – Food Pantry | 2 |
| 3 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 4 | 5 | 6 Office Hrs 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir Practice And Bible Study | 7 10 AM Women with Purpose | 8 10 AM Emmaus Agape Group | 9 |
| 10 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship <i>Baseball Outing</i> | 11 9 AM Bible Study 10 AM FNMK Bagging | 12 | 13 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir Practice No evening Bible Study | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 18 9 AM Bible Study | 19 9 AM Food Pantry | 20 Office Hours: 9 AM – 12 Noon 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir Practice No evening Bible Study | 21 1 PM Food Pantry | 22 | 23 |
| 24 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 25 9 AM Bible Study | 26 | 27 Office Hours: 9 -12 10:30 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir Practice And Bible Study | 28 4:00 PM Celebration of Life – Lael Wellington | 29 | 30 |

Pets Need Food, Too



There are several ways you can donate to help folks feed their beloved pets. You may leave a donation of dry dog food or cat food in the designated basket in the narthex. These donations will be distributed at our Food Pantry on the designated days. Or you can make a financial contribution by writing “Pet Food”



on the memo line of your check payable to the church. You can also donate to the 4 Paws Pet Food Bank in Corrales. Thank you so much for the donations you have already brought in. Lisa Isenberger has information about these programs.

Be a Kid Again – Vacation Bible School

On August 23 and 24, the young at heart gathered at the church for two mornings of fun and growing closer to the Lord. We sang (and danced a little) to some silly songs, and we selected favorite hymns to sing. Inspiring devotionals were given by Earlene Price and Judy Ballard. Under the expert guidance of Rev. Kathy Harrell and Lisa Isenberger we



examined our faith and grew in our Bible knowledge. We then adjourned to the classroom where Lorraine Zapf led us in two craft activities. We made baby blankets for new mothers who are aging out of the foster care system. And we exercised our creative muscles by decorating paper napkin rings to be used in the Feed New Mexico Kids food bags. Before enjoying lunch together, we played Bingo, led by Wanda Golsan.

Wednesday’s Bingo was a variation called “Social Bingo.” We got to know each other better while having a blast playing! If you didn’t come, you sure missed out on lots of fun. We hope to make this an annual event, so plan to take part next year!



Care Ministry

You're invited to call or send cards to these of our church family, to offer words of support and encouragement.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------|
| 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 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 | 312-2992 |
| Wanda Schierling | 921 Purple Aster, Bernalillo, NM 87004 | 970-398-0501 |



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|----------------------------|----------|
| Skip & Emily Sue Chambers | Sept. 4 |
| Earl & Usa Van Doren | Sept. 7 |
| Dan & Robin Foley | Sept. 12 |
| Ken & Wanda Schierling | Sept. 15 |
| Gary & Joyce Cowles | Sept. 18 |
| Joel & April Salisbury | Sept. 18 |
| Richard & Carolyn McDowell | Sept. 29 |



| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Joey Archuleta | Sept. 2 |
| Mike Bates | Sept. 2 |
| Sheryl Clouse | Sept. 3 |
| Don Roach | Sept. 3 |
| Louise Philson | Sept. 3 |
| Paul Meyer | Sept. 3 |
| Mac McGrew | Sept. 4 |
| Sherrie Klopp | Sept. 5 |
| Francie Larsen | Sept. 7 |
| Glenn Henchcliffe | Sept. 11 |
| Margaret Todman | Sept. 17 |
| Lynn Hood | Sept. 19 |
| Sheila Smith | Sept. 21 |
| Emily Sue Chambers | Sept. 24 |
| Harry Combs | Sept. 24 |
| Steve Lamoreux | Sept. 28 |
| Bill Schramko | Sept. 29 |

August Mission Trip

St Joseph's Mission School

At various times during the summer, Bruce Packard, Warren Herrington, Linnette Carlson, and Reuben have gone out to San Fidel to work on the building and grounds at St. Joseph's Mission School. During the month of July, they built a ramp and decking to and between the portable classrooms, providing handicap access to the classrooms. During August, they constructed a



fence around the portable classroom area of the campus. This will provide improved safety for the children, as



this area is used for preschoolers and kindergarteners.

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me" Matthew 25: 40



A HUGE thank you to our awesome congregation!



KAIROS # 30 at the Women's Western New Mexico Correctional Facility was a huge success and HDUMC was a major contributor to this spirit filled weekend. Thank you for your prayers, cookies and financial support for this weekend. Talk about serious cookie bakers ... I took in **73 dozen cookies** from HDUMC. We had over **900 dozen home made cookies** donated to meet the needs for this weekend. Of the **144** 30 minute prayer slots available for the weekend, HDUMC filled **27** – we could feel your prayers. Twenty seven (**27**) team members humbly and tirelessly served on this team. Twenty four (**24**) residents /inmates were selected to participate in the weekend. Additionally, eight (**8**) residents/inmates that had previously attended a KAIROS weekend served as "Angels" or helpers/servants assisting the team. Imagine preparing and serving meals for approx. **60 persons 3 times a day** for three days = **540 meals** – plus snacks and beverages!

It was such a blessing to participate in a ministry that deeply touched these residents/inmates in so many ways. If you are interested in participating in Women's or Men's KAIROS Prison Ministry – please contact Linn Carlson at 505-450-4152.

A THANK YOU NOTE FROM DOUG CONE AND FAMILY (Arlene Westgaard's son):

Dear Pastor Reuben,

I am sorry this "Thank you" is so late but life goes on and I am finally starting to feel "caught up" with life. I can't express enough how thankful I am for you and the body of Christ there for your love and support during this very difficult time. God richly bless you, Judy and your family. In Christ, Doug & family

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1201 Golf Course Rd
P.O. Box 45378
Rio Rancho, NM 87174

Phone: 505-891-4206

Office Hours: Wednesday 9 AM - Noon

Email: highdesertumc@outlook.com

We're on the Web!
www.highdesertumc.org

September, 2023 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for September, 2023 are:

Friday, September 1 at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, September 19 at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, September 21 at 1:00 p.m.

September Collection: Canned Fruits

There is a container in the foyer for these donations.

Contact John Samford at (505) 870-0667

for more information.