

*“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”*

# HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## **REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS**

September, 2024, Issue 9

Have you ever given the vision/mission statement of High Desert UMC that is printed on the front of the bulletin much thought: “Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives?” Does this accurately describe what we are trying to do here at High Desert? Remember how Jesus summarized all the shalls and shall nots of the Ten Commandments into two simple commands: “Love God and love your neighbor.” Jesus also said in Mark 10:45 that He came to serve, not be served. He set the example for us. By loving God and serving others through our outreach programs we are changing lives, making a difference not only in our lives, but also in the lives of others here in Rio Rancho, Albuquerque, San Fidel, Gallup, New Mexico, and the world.

One of the best books that I have ever read on missions is entitled *The Hole in Our Gospel* by Richard Stearns. The concept behind this book is quite simple; it's basically that being a Christian requires more than a personal relationship with the Lord. It also entails a public relationship with the

world. If your personal relationship with Jesus Christ has no positive outward expression, then your faith has a hole in it. Someone once cut out every verse in the Bible that dealt with poverty, injustice, sickness, and oppression; it was full of holes.

It has been said that vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. But a vision with action can change the world. In the Parable of the Sheep and Goats in Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus gives us a vision and challenges us to put His words and teachings into action. In this passage, the criterion that Jesus uses to separate the sheep from the goats is not that the sheep confessed faith in Jesus while the goats did not, but rather that the sheep had acted in tangible and loving ways towards the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, and the vulnerable, while the goats had not.

Following Jesus' command to love our neighbors, the sheep fed the hungry, gave the thirsty something to drink, invited the stranger in, provided clothing, took care of the sick, and visited those in prison. And this is the goal of our outreach programs with the Pantry, Feed New Mexico Kids, Women with Purpose, Interfaith Bible Center, Gallup Nazarene Church, St. Joseph Mission

School, Gift Basket Ministry, Operation Christmas Child and MorningStar. In addition, we are also reaching out through our Second Mile Giving to Heifer International, UMCOR, Haven House, Faith Comes by Hearing, 4Paws Pet Food, School Supplies, and Teacher Gift Cards.

Unfortunately, we cannot rest on our laurels, because we live in a world where the needs are getting greater each and every day. So, I frequently ask myself: “Are we doing all we can as a church? Are we giving our best to the Lord, doing His will? Is there a hole in our gospel?” I don't know, but I'm always looking for new mission opportunities and where God is leading us.

Now one of my faults is that I am never satisfied with the status quo, especially when it comes to my personal life and the church. I am always looking for new ways to serve God. I appreciate your continued support for our mission and outreach programs as we try to fulfill Jesus' words in Matthew 25, and hope you will continue to support me as we try new things. God Bless. Reuben

## **SEPTEMBER SECOND MILE GIVING:**

### **HEIFER INTERNATIONAL**

Our Second Mile Giving for September is Heifer International. Its mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth. Heifer International was founded by Dan West, a farmer from the Midwest and a member of the Church of the Brethren, who went to the front lines of the Spanish Civil War as an aid worker. He found that giving refugees a cup of milk was not enough; what if they had a cow?

Thus, the Heifer Project adopted the philosophy of “teach a man to fish,” by providing animals to families instead of handouts. The animals provide both food and reliable income, as agricultural products such as milk, eggs and honey can be traded or sold at the market. Families are empowered to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity. Since 1944, Heifer International has provided livestock and environmentally sound agricultural training to improve the lives of those who struggle daily. They have been in ministry for 75 years providing animals to 20.7 million families in 125 countries. The goal of every Heifer Project is to help families achieve self-reliance.

Your contributions will be used to purchase animals. The current price is as follows: heifer - \$500; goat - \$120; sheep - \$120; rabbits- \$60 or flock of chicks - \$20. Due to your generous contributions, we were able to purchase 8 heifers, 10 flocks of chicken and 3 sheep last year. Thank you for your continued support to our mission program.

### **HEIFER INTERNATIONAL – LINN CARLSON’S UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH**



### **HEIFER: 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 & then aftermath floods.

After lunch one day, 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 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 & tangible -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 makes me appreciate this important and vital ministry. **PRAISE GOD!**

## “PEACE OF MIND”

### Preplanning is a gift for your loved ones.

Karla Barela from French Funerals will share the benefits of preplanning with our congregation on Friday September 20, 2024, at 10 am in the classroom. While this is not a topic we enjoy talking about, preplanning will take the burden off our loved ones and ease the stress during their time of grief. In addition, it will assure that your final wishes are known and your loved ones don't have to guess or argue over what you wanted. Also, this is a great opportunity to ask the questions that you always wanted to ask in a non-threatening environment. In the end there is peace of mind knowing that your necessary arrangements have been made. Please note that this is not an endorsement for French Funerals, but a service that they are offering.

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### Church Library – Check it out



*Chicken Soup* books are filled with uplifting short stories. Our library has the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> helpings of chicken soup.

The *Country Soul* edition has nurturing stories from country music's biggest stars and brings family and faith together. Or you may want to read *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Angels and Miracles*, where the words of the angels will give you the staying power that you need. Enjoy browsing our library!

### Women with Purpose

**Thursday, September 5, 10:00**

**AM**

**Collecting school supplies for**

**Locker 505**

**All women are invited.**

**Come, and bring a friend!**



### ***Military Family Prayer List***

Many men and women are faithfully serving our country in the armed service all over the world to protect our country and ensure our freedom. Please pray for the safety of:

Master Sergeant Gary Carter, US Army

Prya Chino, US Navy

Sergeant Major Reginald Daniels,  
United States Marine Corp, United  
Arab Emirates

Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Owen Garcia, US  
Navy

Cadet Master Sergeant Darien Garcia,  
US Air Force Academy

Staff Sergeant Brock Henning, US Air  
Force

Major Herbert Jockheck, 82nd  
Airborne Division, Fort Liberty, NC


Captain Brian Koa Yee, United States  
Air Force

Gunnery Sergeant Jesse Perkins,  
United States Marines, Bangkok

Captain Shelli Schimke, USAF  
Intelligence

Lieutenant Kristina Scott, US Navy

Lt. Colonel Ryan Stanfill, US Air Force,  
McConnell AFB, Wichita, Kansas



## Operation Christmas Child



It's time again to begin collecting and filling shoeboxes for Operations Christmas Child for Samaritan's Purse.

High Desert has participated in this mission project for several years, where members get a shoebox (any size will work) and fill it with toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. Then bring your shoebox to the church along with a donation of \$10 cash or check made out to HDUMC marked with "Operation Christmas Child" for shipping. All the shoeboxes must be turned in by Sunday November 17, 2024. They will be taken Grace Outreach Church the week of November 18, 2024. They will then be distributed to children in need around the world. There are empty shoeboxes available in the Narthex.

**If you would like to pack your own shoebox:** There are instructions on how to pack a shoebox on the back of the Shoebox Label which is out in the Narthex. In addition, bring a donation of \$10 for shipping. After all the shoeboxes have been turned in, a check for shipping will be issued to Samaritan's Purse and mailed to them. Then just mark on the label if it is for either a boy or girl and what age group, peel the label off and put it on top of the box.

A few requirements have changed this year:

1. Please don't include soap in your shoebox, some chemicals have been banned in some countries.
2. Put at least one rubber band around each shoebox, so it doesn't open during shipping.
3. Remove all packaging from items put in each shoebox. Some locations don't have a place to dispose of trash.
4. Shoeboxes can be wrapped in wrapping paper, just be sure and wrap the lid separately so that when they go to the regional processing center they can easily be opened for inspection.

**If you would like for Patty Latter to shop for and pack your shoebox, please submit \$30 to the church and mark "Operation Christmas Child."** The cost for each box this year is \$30 which includes \$20 for the contents inside the shoebox and \$10 for shipping. Of course, it is also possible for several members to share the cost of a shoebox.

Last year we collected 133 boxes. Our goal this year is 135 boxes. If you have any questions call or text Patty Latter @ 505-934-4346.

### 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 \$50,000 that was distributed to non-profit organizations in the Albuquerque area that are feeding the homeless. Representative of High Desert UMC have volunteered to serve pies and ice cream on: Friday September 6 from 8:45 am – 2 pm and Monday September 9 from 8:45 am – 2 pm. Come to the State Fair and enjoy some pie and ice cream during these times to support this great ministry.



**New Mexico Annual Conference 2024**  
**Lay Report to High Desert United Methodist Church, Rio Rancho NM**

*Although Lisa's report appeared in last month's edition, it bears repeating, in excerpts here:*

**Summary:**

...Bishop Schnase encouraged all of us to stay focused on mission rather than on divisive matters. He further reiterated that there is room in the UMC for progressives, centrists, and traditionalists alike. A quote from John Wesley sums this up nicely: *"Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences."*

**Key Take-aways:**

In the words of Bishop Schnase, "our work is to proclaim the gospel, seek, welcome, and gather persons into the body of Christ and send persons into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, freeing the oppressed and sustaining one another with compassion... "

**Recommendation:**

STAY THE COURSE - HDUMC is a thriving mission-focused church, actively doing Jesus's work as a United Methodist congregation. There is no need to deviate from our current path; we simply need to continue living our mission of Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives.

**Lisa Isenberger, Lay Member, NM Annual Conference**

*(Lisa's report was accepted by unanimous vote, by the HDUMC Ministry Team, on 8/13. 2024.)*

***Church Cookout***  
***Friday, September 27, 2024***

**TIME: 5:30 – 7:30 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. Join us for a great time of fellowship. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors.



## HDUMC...YOU ARE AMAZING!

***Thank you! Thank you!*** Our Congregation donated: **44 doz. Cookies;** **\$575.00** financial support for the weekend, almost **\$200.00** in meal tickets and were **amazing prayer warriors** throughout the weekend (even during the late night/early morning hours)! The weekend was incredibly successful and the ladies were powerfully moved by the Holy Spirit! I have lots of stories...just ask me! ***Linn Carlson***

## Kairos Brings God's Light into the Darkness of Prison

The prison environment is a dark place, where prisoners face violence, anger, gangs and loneliness daily.

Kairos Prison Ministry volunteers' step into this darkness to hold a 3 ½ day weekend, with the majority of participants made up primarily of negative leaders within the prison. Through talks, discussions and Chapel meditations **prisoners learn that they are worthy of God's love, light and grace. That no matter who they are or what they have done, God forgives them.**

When a former negative or gang leader accepts Christ, it can influence the very atmosphere of a prison for the better. As the Kairos Christian community inside a prison grows and begins to gain influence, the incidence of violence often decreases.

Sources: U.S. Department of Justice, Prison Fellowship, Florida Department of Corrections, The Atlantic (October 2014), Image Source: The Pew Center on the States, 2012



## WHY WE SERVE PRISONERS

***"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" (Matthew 25:40)***

## Recent Fellowship Outings

***A Night at the Opera, August 23rd***

***Baseball Game, September 1st***



Front, L-R: Glenda, Nina, Laura, Holly, Jenny, Jane, & Emily Sue. Back row: Damon & Melissa

***Watch for more fun activities being planned!***



The Meyer family, Paul, Rose, Elizabeth & Catherine, enjoying dinner prior to the opera performance

## OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Who was Rhoda in the New Testament?  
*Find the answer elsewhere in this issue.*

### *Bible Studies for Everyone*

One of the best ways to grow in your personal relationship with the Lord is to participate in a weekly Bible study. If you are not currently participating in a weekly Bible study, please join one of the following:

**SUNDAY 10 AM:** Studying the *Book of Revelation*. Will start on Sunday September 8. Meets in the classroom and is led by Tony Smith.

**MONDAY 10:30 AM:** Studying the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Will start on Monday September 9. Meets in the classroom and is led by Marie Donat.

**WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM:** Studying the Holy Spirit. Will start on Wednesday September 4. Meets in the classroom and is led by John Kottenbrook.

**WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM:** Studying *Think Like Jesus, What Do I Believe and Why Does It Matter?* by Randy Frazee. Will start on Wednesday September 4. Meets in the sanctuary and is led by Reuben Thomas.

**FAIRWINDS:** Tony Smith is also leading a class at Fairwinds on Tuesdays.

**ONLINE STUDIES:** Each week an email is distributed from Tony Smith on 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](mailto:coraleno@aol.com).

### Blessing of the

*Saturday,  
October 5,  
At 9:00 AM  
In the Church  
Parking Lot  
All pets  
Welcome.*



### Animals

### JAM Sessions (Jesus and Music)

Join us on Friday afternoons at 4:30 in the Sanctuary for a time of playing instruments and singing some of our favorite Christian songs. Everyone is welcome. For details, see Drew Ammons or John Kottenbrook.

# SEPTEMBER

# 2024

## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship 1:30 Baseball Outing	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	<b>5</b> 10:00 Women with Purpose	<b>6</b> 11 AM – 2 PM Pantry 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	<b>9</b> 10:00 FNMK Bagging	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	<b>12</b> 10 AM Emmaus Agape Gr.	<b>13</b> 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9AM – 12 Noon Pantry 6:00 PM Ministry Team	<b>18</b> Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	<b>19</b> 1 PM-4 PM Pantry	<b>20</b> 10 AM Pre-Planning Presentation 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 4:30 PM Jesus & Music <b>5:30 Cookout</b> 8 PM Spanish Church Pryer Mtg	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>SS = Sunday School</b> <b>MS = MorningStar</b>  <i>Looking ahead: Mark your calendar for Saturday, Oct. 5, 9 AM, Blessing of the Animals.</i>				



# Care Ministry

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

<b>Phil Pittman</b>	C/O Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NW Albuquerque, NM 87120	
<b>Lorra Garner</b>	Genesis, 9150 McMahon Blvd. NW Albq 87114	408-722-6482
<b>Grover Donahoe</b>	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	220-3839
<b>Rod Warpole</b>	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	332-9706
<b>Mac Esquibel</b>	4544 Aguila Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-1469
<b>Ella Jerome</b>	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	312-2992
<b>Polly Van Lenten</b>	920 Riverview Dr. SE, Apt 280, Rio Rancho 87124	979-277-4852
<b>Vi Ortega</b>	Care Free 10916 Juan Tabo Place NE Albq. 87111	288-2160
<b>Pat McElwain</b>	4536 Ambrose Alday SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	235-7484



Skip & Emily Sue Chambers	September 4
Earl & Usa Van Doren	September 7
Steve & Helen Korschgen	September 11
Dan & Robin Foley	September 12
Ken & Wanda Schierling	September 15
Gary & Joyce Cowles	September 18
Joel & April Salisbury	September 18
Bill & Cheryl Mason	September 25
Richard & Carolyn McDowell	September 29

Joey Archuleta	September 2
Mike Bates	September 2
Sheryl Clouse	September 3
Don Roach	September 3
Louise Philson	September 3
Paul Meyer	September 3
Mac McGrew	September 4
Steve Knecht	September 5
Sherrie Klopp	September 5
Francie Larsen	September 7
Levi Charles	September 7
Glenn Hinchcliffe	September 11
Margaret Todman	September 17
Michelle Hobson	September 18
Lynn Hood	September 19
Sheila Smith	September 21
Emily Sue Chambers	September 24
Harry Combs	September 24
Steve Korschgen	September 27
Steve Lamoreux	September 28
Bill Schramko	September 29

## ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES

IN THE BIBLE:

AFTER PETER WAS RELEASED FROM HEROD'S PRISON, HE WALKED TO A FRIEND'S HOUSE. HE KNOCKED AND RHODA, A SERVANT GIRL, ANSWERED THE DOOR. SHE RECOGNIZED PETER, BUT IN HER EXCITEMENT, DID NOT LET HIM IN! (THANK YOU TO JUDY BALLARD FOR CONTRIBUTING THIS.)

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## HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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P.O. Box 45378  
Rio Rancho, NM 87174

Phone: 505-891-4206

Office Hours: Wednesday 9 AM - Noon

Email: [highdesertumc@outlook.com](mailto:highdesertumc@outlook.com)

We're on the Web!  
[www.highdesertumc.org](http://www.highdesertumc.org)

September, 2024 Newsletter

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## HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

**Distribution dates for September, 2024 are:**

**Friday, September 6, at 11:00 AM**

**Tuesday, September 17, at 9:00 AM**

**Thursday September 19, at 1:00 PM**

**September Collection: Canned Fruit**

Containers are in the Narthex & Fellowship Hall for these donations.

**Contact John Samford at (505) 870-0667  
for more information.**

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