

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

May, 2024, Issue 5

Twice last month, I preached on Jesus' appearance to Peter and six other disciples during their fishing trip to the Sea of Galilee as recorded in verses 1-19 of the twenty-first chapter of the Gospel of John. As you remember, on the night that Jesus was arrested, Peter denied that he was one of Jesus' disciples. But here on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus restored Peter to his leadership role by asking him three times: "Do you truly love me?"

Peter responds to each question by stating: "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." After each of Peter's positive replies, Jesus says: "Feed my lambs, tend my sheep, and feed my sheep." In other words, Jesus tells Peter that if you really love me, Peter, show it this time. Show it in what you do, where you go, how you act, and how you live your life. If you love me, act like it. Follow me. Feed others, both physically and spiritually, as I have fed you. Serve others as I have served you. If you want to know which people to love and serve, remember the people I loved and served. If you wonder how people should

be treated, remember how I treated others. If you love me, feed, and care for the people that I love; the people that I came to serve and save.

Jesus is also asking each one of us: "Do you truly love me?" Is our love for Jesus just talk, or do we back it up with action? He is telling Peter and each of us, don't just talk about loving me, show it in your actions and how you live your life; do something about it; show your love through acts of kindness to others. Talk is cheap, but actions are priceless.

In an effort to show our love for Jesus through acts of kindness, on Sunday March 17, each person in attendance at both worship services was given a \$10 bill and asked to pass it on in random acts of kindness. In many cases, some people multiplied the \$10 with their own resources. The response was outstanding. We received over 60 reports with a wide variety of acts of kindness which are listed below:

1. Paid for food for cars at drive through (3 people did this)
2. Given to lady at McDonalds who had five children
3. Multiplied \$10 to \$100 and gave to five ladies working at Albertson's bakery

4. Given to young mother with two children on her birthday
5. Two donations to Sal Gonzales who is battling cancer
6. Two donations to New Mexico Foundation (Teddy Bear Fund)
7. Couple bought flowers and chocolates for a room at an assisted living center
8. Added to \$40 to pay for pilgrim's fee for Women's Walk to Emmaus
9. Gave \$20 for Women with Purpose activities
10. Made biscochitos and took to local fire station
11. Bought yarn and made more prayer shawls
12. Given to elderly lady at Dollar Tree
13. Added \$10 and bought gas for someone at service station
14. Used to "overtip" our server on a very busy understaffed day
15. Gave two dozen donuts to the Rivers Edge Fire & Rescue Station

(continued on next page)

God Bless, Reuben

“Pass it On” Acts of Kindness - continued from first page

16. Helped a person get her ticket to *My Fair Lady*
17. Donated to Telephone Museum so others who can't afford it can attend
18. Provided an extra-large tip for young college student waitress
19. Two donations to Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
20. Given to cleaning lady who was unable to work due to a broken collar bone
21. Extended church kindness by sending a birthday present to a friend in another state
22. Added \$10 and made a meal donation at Meadowlark Senior Center
23. Added \$10 and donated the start of a free snack program at CNM
24. Treated home bound friends to lunch (2 people did this)
25. Took dinner to a neighbor who has cancer
26. Helped a child buy books from Loma Colorado Library Book Store
27. Family bought \$40 of dog and cat food for Watermelon Mountain Ranch
28. Given to homeless woman playing the violin in the rain
29. Donated to Worthein Hospice at Presbyterian
30. Donated to Presbyterian Healthcare Foundation for their Hospice House
31. Provided shower caddy with girl stuff to struggling daughter of a neighbor
32. Provided Easter baskets for children at Haven House
33. To Pastor Joanne Landry and Interfaith Bible Center for feed our homes neighbors
34. Two donations to See Better, Learn Better Campaign for glasses for low-income kids
35. Bought a sandwich and drink for a homeless man
36. Donated \$40 to Silver Horizons which provided critical support to seniors
37. Helped lady buy fabric to make potholders to supplement her Social Security
38. Helped a coworker who is a single mother with four children
39. Donated for purchase of Bible for high school graduate; and to Feed NM Kids
40. Given to clerk at Walgreens Pharmacy who waited on her
41. Sent to a halfway house of Disciples in Rapid City, South Dakota
42. Bought kitchen utensils for children of a family in need
43. Helped mother with children and no husband or child support
44. Provided financial support to two Pantry grandparents who are raising their grandchildren
45. Couple gave their \$10 to homeless neighbor; also bought her lunch
46. Put together birthday packages for clients of Pantry
47. Gave it to two teenagers who had brought wood for Pastor Chris Davis
48. One of them used it to buy a basketball for a neighbor who didn't have one
49. The other made cookies and passed them out to neighbors, with Bible verses
50. Bought and delivered pet food to the NM Hunger Project in Veguita, NM
51. Gift cards to the homeless on the street
52. Purchased 30 stress balls for school counselor to give to students

Thanks to all who passed it on. I hope the above list has given you some new ideas on how to pass it on. Let's not make this a one-time experience. Let this become a normal routine for you. We answer Jesus' question: "Do you truly love me" when we willingly serve and follow Him. Let's back it up by living our daily lives in service to Him. God Bless. Reuben

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Who was Agabus in the New Testament? 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 spring. Please join one of the following studies in the classroom.

SUNDAY 10 AM: Studying Revelation, Topical Bible Studies, Led by Tony Smith.

MONDAY 10 AM: Studying *Pray First* led by Francie Larsen.

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: The Book of Psalms, led by John Kottenbrook.

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: The Bible using "*The Story*" led by Reuben Thomas, in the sanctuary

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

ONLINE STUDIES: We send out a weekly email from Tony Smith discussing Isaiah. You can also participate in Tony's online studies on Daniel, John & Revelation at coraleno@aol.com.

PODCASTS: "Footsteps" Available on the church website.

Women With Purpose Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 10 AM

Ladies, a bit of a departure this month as we approach the summer months. We will be preparing 20 water bottles and include survival items like sunscreen for [homeless] folks in need . . . this activity may seem less than vital than some of our other outreaches in the past but it serves our motto of Women With Purpose perfectly.



James 4:17 "If you see a need you can satisfy, and fail to do it, that is a sin." Loosely translated, of course, but there are no sinners in this group.

Won't you please come join us!

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 more information, see Drew Ammons or John Kottenbrook.



Remember When?

By Judy Ballard

Do you ever grapple with an imperfect memory of something you did in the past? Perhaps you are sharing with a friend or neighbor something you did with Women With Purpose and the finite details escape you. Oh, horrors!

Not to worry. If you're thinking of an activity of the past WWP season (Sept 2023-May 2024) here's a recap to share with whomever you wish:

- Sept: Two-pronged focus: Stuffed 10 purses for A Peaceful Habitation **and** provided school supplies for Pastor Chris in Gallup.
- Created 32 'Birthday Bash in a Bag' for children in the Saranam program of Albuquerque.
- Assembled 10 'Baby Shower' gift bags for Candice Gould's 'New Mexico's Heart Gallery' expectant mothers.
- Stuffed **100** pairs of socks with snacks and small gifts (*this was NOT an easy stuffing!*) for Pastor Joanne Landry to distribute in the Interfaith Bible Center in the International Zone of Albuquerque.
- Fifty (count 'em) Comfort Bear and Blanket bags for various law enforcement agencies to distribute to children in crisis.
- Put together **50** gently-used large purses with essential toiletries to be divvied up among **Crossroads for Women, Haven House, and A Peaceful Habitation.**
- Another two-pronged focus program: 100 sack lunches for Pastor Chris to pass out to the needy in Gallup and on the Rez; and 30 small packs of school supplies for students enrolled in Locker 505.
- Fifty small bags of toiletries for children and 5 LARGE tote bags filled with essential toiletries for needy families all associated with Locker 505.
- Please note that **Feed New Mexico Kids** also falls under WWP's community umbrella. This past school term we have assembled and distributed **4,441 food packs to 5 Rio Rancho Public Schools.**
- Whew!

Fellowship Events



Our semi-annual **baseball** outing on April 28 to watch the Isotopes play was attended by 40 enthusiastic fans, and we had loads of fun! We were blessed with great seats, beautiful weather, and the home team won. Many thanks to Damon Bruce for driving the bus, and expertly maneuvering through a road closure and detour.



Next event: CHURCH COOKOUT – Fri., May 24, 2024, 5-7 PM, 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. Entertainment to be provided by the Duke City Swamp Coolers.

This is a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors.

MAY SECOND MILE GIVING:

Haven House

Haven House is the only domestic violence shelter in Sandoval County. It is an eight (8) bedroom shelter that provides temporary housing for thirty-two (32) victims and their children. It provides a welcoming place for women and children who are no longer able to stay in their homes due to unsafe conditions. The location of the home is unknown except to law officials and those who offer assistance and security to people who are subject to physical and mental abuse. Often the victims must leave home quickly and with no notice, so they are not prepared for what comes next.

The services provided by Haven House include emergency shelter, case management, support groups, life-skill classes, legal advocacy, referral to job opportunities, housing and other supportive services, therapeutic counseling for both women and their children, and children's programs.

Your contributions will support this worthwhile program and provide needed supplies and services for the health and safety of the women and children who seek help in their hour of need. You may place your contribution in the collection plate and note "Haven House" on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your support of this local ministry.



Thank You Note received

"Dear High Desert Methodist, Thank you, thank you, thank you! Your snack packs throughout the year have been so appreciated by some of our students in need here at Cielo Azul! Your commitment of time and money is a blessing to the families whose children received the snack sacks every Friday afternoon! Please know that you are making a difference.

*Maricarmen Saldana and Judy Reynolds,
Counselors"*

Church Library – Check it Out

Two books to consider:

1. *Neither Wolf Nor Dog*, by Ken Nerburn. The award winning author spends months interviewing a Lakota elder, gaining in the process a greater understanding of the Native American culture.
2. *The Love Stories of the Bible Speak*, by NY Times Best Selling author, Shannon Bream. Ms Bream draws lessons from the various romances, friendships, and families in the Bible.

Do you have a book in mind that you have enjoyed from our church library? Let us know and we'll suggest it in our next edition.



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 1st 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

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

CPL Blake Stuart, USMC, Camp Lejeune,
North Carolina

MAY 2024

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Feast Day at St. Joseph's Office closed 10:30 AM Bible St. 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study	Office hrs: 9-12 10 AM Women with Purpose	11:00 AM Food Pantry 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	10 AM Bible Study,		Office Hrs: 9-12 Mission Comm; 9 AM 10:30 AM Bible St. 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study	10 AM Emmaus Agape Gr.	4:30 PM Jesus & Music	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Mothers' Day 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	10 AM Bible Study 10 AM FNMK Bagging		Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible St. 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study	1:00-4:00 PM Food Pantry	4:30 PM Jesus & Music	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Pentecost 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	10 AM Bible Study	9 AM - 12:00 noon Pantry 6 PM Ministry Team	Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible St. 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study		5-7 PM Church Cookout	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	10 AM Bible Study		Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible St. 5:30 PM Choir and Bible Study		4:30 PM Jesus & Music	

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
Mac Esquibel	4544 Aguila Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-1469
Ella Jerome	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	312-2992
Polly Van Lenten	920 Riverview Dr. SE, Apt 280, Rio Rancho 87124	979-277-4852
Vi Ortega	517 Dartmouth Pl SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106	985-0953
Pat McElwain	4536 Ambrose Alday SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	235-7484
Goldie Buckner	920 Riverview Dr. SE Apt. 205 Rio Rancho, NM 87124	828-0486



Wilson & Trixie Maclay	May 1
Chad & Viola Jackson	May 3
Damon & Melissa Bruce	May 4
Ron & Marlene Fraser	May 8
Mike & Nan Whelan	May 12
Dirk & Marion Sanderson	May 18
Bud & Sandra Keller	May 27
John & Glynda Samford	May 30



Jody Meyer	May 1
Rogene Schramko	May 5
Olive Gandham	May 8
John Hannahs	May 10
*Eugene Anderson	May 11, 1924
Dodie Rossman	May 11
Brian Kassel	May 12
Rey Schuman	May 13
Joyce Cowles	May 14
Irma Peter	May 15
Faye Lora	May 16
Christine Lucero	May 18
Diane Witt	May 19
Ron Sanders	May 21
Bryce Hendricks	May 23
Carol Smith	May 25
Janet Barnard	May 30
Wanda Schierling	May 31

ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE:

AGABUS WAS A PROPHET WHO, USING PAUL'S OWN BELT, DEMONSTRATED HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD DELIVER HIM INTO THE HANDS OF THE GENTILES. THE PREDICTION WAS THAT PAUL WOULD BECOME A PRISONER, ULTIMATELY TO BE PUT TO DEATH.

ACTS 21:10

***Happy 100th to Eugene Anderson!**

Gallup Mission Trip Collage

Feeding & praying with homeless on the streets of Gallup, visiting with elders at the Senior Center on the reservation, and hosting a one-day VBS for kids at Pastor Chris' church

VBS: Bible story, music, crafts, lunch, recreation, and sewing with kids ages 5 – 13 (and one mom)



HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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P.O. Box 45378
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Phone: 505-891-4206

Office Hours: Wednesday 9 AM - Noon

Email: highdesertumc@outlook.com

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

May, 2024 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for May, 2024 are:

Friday, May 3, at 11:00 AM

Thursday, May 16, at 1:00 PM

Tuesday, May 21, at 9:00 AM

May Collection: Cereal, regular size boxes

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

Contact John Samford at (505) 870-0667

for more information.
