

"Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives"

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

September, 2026, Issue 9

Three years ago, we decided that since we don't have children worshipping with us on a regularly basis, we would have Vacation Bible School for us older folks. It would be a chance for us to relive some of those memories from our childhood. So, on Thursday August 13 and Friday August 14, we held our third annual "Be A Kid Again" Vacation Bible School. It was a great time of fellowship, music, crafts and games.

I appreciate Muffy Caldes and Chris Jones opening each morning with a devotion, and Drew Ammons and Chuck Schimke providing inspiring music. The crafts included decorating bags and cards and stuffing them with toiletries. Terri Orvis will take these bags to MorningStar to be distributed for the residents who don't have access to these items. Thanks to Leslie Barnett and Emily Sue Chambers for leading crafts. This is one of our newest mission projects that Terri suggested.

Our games included *Bingo* and *Get Churched*. *Get Churched* is basically a Bible trivia game. The participants were divided into groups around four tables. Each table was given a clue and they had to come up with the correct answer, which varied from a person, location, book of the Bible, to words spoken by Jesus.

Overall, I was impressed by our general knowledge of the Bible; however, no one would accuse us of being Biblical scholars! Therefore, this gives me an opportunity to encourage you to

get involved in one of our four Bible studies this fall. On Sunday September 13 at 10 am in the classroom, Jeff and Cindi Bair will start a study of *The Thirteen Apostles* by Ellsworth Kalas. They will address questions such as why did Jesus choose these men? What unique contributions did they each make?

Marie Donat is leading a class on Mondays at 2 pm in the classroom on *1 & 2 Timothy*. Paul wrote these letters to his protegee Timothy, providing guidance on church leadership, sound doctrine and personal conduct. Pat Socci is leading a discussion of *The Case for Hope* by Lee Stobel on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am in the classroom. Lee walks his readers through why holding on to hope is so critical, why we can trust in the hope of Jesus Christ, and how hope can change our lives for the better.

Starting on Wednesday September 9 at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary, our Wednesday Night Class will study *Luke, Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws* by Adam Hamilton. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as He welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today.

As you can see, our studies are covering a variety of topics. I hope that you will seriously consider getting involved in one of these studies. Being good at Biblical trivia might help you in games and jeopardy, but what is really critical is knowing how to apply God's Word to your daily life. And hopefully, that is what our Bibles studies will do.

God Bless.
Reuben

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

New singers

always welcome:



Choir Rehearsal start again
Augusts 26 at 5:30 PM.
Please Join Us!



*Our Hand Bell Choir is
hard at work preparing
Christmas music!*



Bell Choir members, pictured
L-R: Karen Canada, Muffy
Caldes, Sheela Ammons, Sandy
Dewbre, Virginia Bennett-
Director, Judy Thomas, and
Leslie Barnett

Bible Studies for Everyone

Do you want to grow closer to the Lord in 2026 and experience His presence in your life? One of the best ways is to participate in a weekly Bible study. Please join one of the following studies:

SUNDAY 10:00 AM: *Jeff Bair's class will resume on September 13, "The Thirteen Apostles," by J. Ellsworth Kalas.*

MONDAY 2:00 PM: *Marie Donat is leading a class on 1 & 2 Timothy.*

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: *Led by Pat Socci, studying "The Case for Hope" by Lee Strobel.*

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: *Will resume September 9, studying "Luke, Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws", by Adam Hamilton.*

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

PALMILLA: *Dave and Sue Duranty are leading a class at Palmilla on Wednesdays.*

SEPTEMBER SECOND MILE GIVING



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.

I WILL SAY OF THE LORD, "HE IS MY REFUGE AND MY FORTRESS,
MY GOD, IN WHOM I TRUST."
PSALM 91:2

Operation Christmas Child

Shoebox Filling Days: Operation Christmas Child 2026

Three packing events are going to be held this fall in the church classroom:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Age</u>
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1. Tues. 10/6	10:00 to 1:00.	10 to 14
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2. Tues. 10/20	10:00 to 1:00.	5 to 9
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3. Tues. 11/10	10:00 to 1:00.	2 to 4
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Two volunteers will be needed for each of the packing events. If you would be interested in helping on one of the days, contact Patty Latter at 505-934-4346.



The Church in Fellowship



A group of 30 enjoyed the Isotopes baseball game on August 23rd.



Enjoying a picnic supper on the patio at the Santa Fe Opera prior to the performance of "The Magic Flute" on August 28th.



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

Second Lieutenant Darien Garcia, US Air
Force

Staff Sergeant Brock Henning, US Air
Force

Major Brian Koa Yee, United States Air
Force

Lt. Devin Marshall, Ft. Novosel,
Alabama

Gunnery Sergeant Jesse Perkins, United
States Marines, Bangkok

Captain Shelli Schimke, USAF
Intelligence

Lt. Commander Kristina Scott, US Navy

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

ASBURY PIE CAFÉ



The Asbury Pie Café is a tradition of the New Mexico State Fair. For over sixty years, volunteers have served homemade pies and ice cream to thousands of fair goers. Last year they collected around \$62,000 that was distributed to non-profit organizations in Albuquerque that are feeding the homeless. Please come and join us as volunteers from High Desert serve pies and ice cream on Friday, September 11 and Monday September 14 from 8:45 am – 2 pm.

CHURCH CONFERENCE



Each United Methodist Church is required to hold a Church Conference each year. The two main business items include the approval of the Ministry Team leadership and the pastor's compensation for the 2027. While these are the required administrative actions, it is also a time to celebrate the activities of the church. Our Church Conference is scheduled for Wednesday September 30 at 6 pm in the sanctuary. Everybody is welcome to attend. We will have a church potluck prior to the meeting at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



***The Church in Mission
And in Service
Throughout our Community***



"Be a Kid Again" Vacation Bible School (VBS), making hygiene kits for MorningStar residents



Wanda with Shawn, an Interfaith Bible Center successful client, who now has his own home.



Filling bags for Feed New Mexico Kids



Food items for FNMK Bags



Backpacks for blind and low vision students were given to the Rio Rancho School District teachers of students with visual impairments (TSVI). Pictured (l to r) Aniesa Trujillo, Elicia Chavez, Wanda Golsan, Joanna Jones, Executive Director of Special Services Jerry Reeder, Earlene Price, Sarah Hosford-Campbell

Elicia Chavez sent an email: *"My students are loving the backpacks. My 8th grade student at RRMS said she loves the 20 Pens, UNO cards, line readers, and in-ear headphones. She would like to practice more with the bump dots at school before she takes some of them home. She was so excited and sends a huge thank you to you all!"*

SEPTEMBER 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SS = Sunday School JAM = Jesus and Music		FNMK = Feed New Mexico Kids MS = MorningStar				
		1	2 Office Hrs: 9-12 9:00 AM Mission Mtg 10:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 PM Choir	3	4 11-2 Food Pantry	5
6 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship	7 2 PM Bible Study 	8 6:00 PM Ministry Team	9 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir 5:30 Bible Study	10 NO EMMAUS AGAPE MEETING- WILL MEET OCT. 8 10:00 AM	11 Asbury Pie Café-State Fair 3:30 JAM At the church	12
13 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship	14 2 PM Bible Study Asbury Pie Café-State Fair 10 AM FNMK Boxing	15	16 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir 5:30 Bible Study	17	18 11-2 Food Pantry Gallup Mission Trip	19 Gallup Mission Trip
20 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship	21 2 PM Bible Study	22	23 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir 5:30 Bible Study	24	25	26
27 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship	28 2 PM Bible Study	29	30 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:00 Bell Choir 10:30 Bible Study 5:00 Pot Luck 6:00 Church Conference			

Pray for our Homebound

Grover Donahoe	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	505-220-3839
Rod Warpole	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	505-332-9706
Lucille Few	920 Riverview Dr. SE Apt.#223, Rio Rancho 87124	
Norma (Vi) Ortega	BeeHive Homes of Four Hills, 13450 Wenonah Ave. SE, Memory Care Unit Bldg 104 Alb. 87123	
Pat McElwain	4536 Ambrose Alday SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	505-235-7484
Judy Ballard	Legacy Oaks at Azle, 1364 Southeast Parkway Apt.115, Azle, TX 76020	505-240-0912
Robert Wussow	The Retreat, 4100 Jackie Rd. Rio Rancho, NM 87124	505-350-3698



Earl & Usa Van Doren	Sep. 7
Steve & Helen Korschgen	Sep.11
Dan & Robin Foley	Sep. 12
Gary & Joyce Cowles	Sep. 18
Joel & April Salisbury	Sep. 18
Bill & Cheryl Mason	Sep. 25
Richard & Carolyn McDowell	Sep. 29

Joey Archuleta	Sep. 2
Mike Bates	Sep. 2
Sheryl Clouse	Sep. 3
Paul Meyer	Sep. 3
Steve Knecht	Sep. 5
Francie Larsen	Sep. 7
Levi Charles	Sep. 7
Glenn Hinchcliffe	Sep.11

Ginny Butler Sep. 12, 1926!
Congratulations and blessings to
Ginny on her 100th birthday.

Grace Pacheco	Sep. 13
Margaret Todman	Sep. 17
Lynn Hood	Sep. 19
Sheila Smith	Sep. 21
Emily Sue Chambers	Sep. 24
Harry Combs	Sep. 24
Steve Korschgen	Sep. 27
Steve Lamoreux	Sep. 28
Bill Schramko	Sep. 29

A Note of Thanks:

"I am a teacher at Lincoln Middle School here in Rio Rancho. I've been meaning to thank you and your congregation for their continued support and thoughtfulness. It is always appreciated to return to school each Fall and receive your gifts and encouragement. While I have a church home, I did want to thank you. Please convey my sincere gratitude to your congregation as well."

Aaron Barba

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Office Hours: Wednesday 9 AM - Noon

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

SEPTEMBER, 2026 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for September, 2026 are:

Friday, September 4, from 11:00 to 2:00

Friday, September 18, from 11:00 to 2:00

September Collection: Pinto Beans & Rice, Small Bags

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

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