

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

May, 2026, Issue 5

An essential ingredient of our outreach and mission program is our Second Mile Giving. Each month we take up an offering for certain mission projects. Have you ever wondered what Second Mile Giving is? It is defined as “a phrase used to describe a deed of charity or kindness beyond the demands of duty.” In Matthew 5:41, Jesus says: “If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him the second mile.” During ancient times, Roman soldiers could force a Jewish man to carry his equipment or other things for one mile. Jesus is telling us to go the extra mile, do more than is expected. The “first mile” of giving is for the general operation and administration of the church. The “second mile” goes beyond the general giving and provides support for various mission projects that fulfill Jesus’ command “to love our neighbor.”

Each project is carefully selected. Is the project addressing a definite need in the surrounding community? Does the ministry fulfill Jesus’ command to love our neighbor? Does the project fulfill a need

that we are unable to directly address? In other words, we support and work through several organizations to address a need that we are unable to do directly. For example, we support Pastor Chris Davis as she feeds the homeless in Gallup and provides food to the homebound residents of the Navajo Nation. Just as Pastor Joanne Landry provides support to the homeless in the International Zone of Albuquerque. By working through different agencies, we are able to make a difference for the Lord not only in our local community, but throughout the state, nation and world.

Since we each have different interests and favorite projects, we provide a smorgasbord of projects from which to choose. The Second Mile Giving for 2026 is listed below:

1. January – Navajo Reservation Relief Fund
2. February – Interfaith Bible Center
3. March – United Methodist Committee on Relief
4. April – St. Joseph Mission School
5. May – Haven House
6. June – Gift Cards for Teachers

7. July – 4Paws Pet Fund & School Supplies
8. August – Hoodies for Students
9. September – Heifer International
10. October – Thanksgiving Boxes for Haven House; Operation Christmas Child; Christmas Gift Cards for St. Joseph
11. November – Christmas Hams for Pantry Client; Toy Drive for Police Department
12. December – Feed New Mexico Kids

Of course, you can contribute to any of these mission projects at any time during the year. Due to your generosity, over \$97,000 was contributed to Second Mile Giving last year and definitely made a difference for the Lord. I hope and pray that you will continue to support our Second Mile Giving as we love our neighbors and witness for Jesus Christ.

God Bless,
Reuben

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 is leading a discussion-based class entitled: "Matthew Plus."*

MONDAY 10:00 AM: *Marie Donat is leading a class on James.*

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: *Taking the month of May off...will resume in June.*

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: *Pastor Reuben is leading a class by Lee Strobel, The Case for Christ.*

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.*

WOMEN WITH PURPOSE



Backpacks for Blind and Low Vision Children

Women With Purpose is taking on an ambitious new project. As back-to-school advertisements begin to appear each summer, we donate school supplies. But an often overlooked group of students needing back-to-school supplies are children who are blind or visually impaired.

At a Knights of The Blind meeting, Jennifer Gass, who is totally blind, described how her club developed backpacks specifically designed for blind students. Each of the 24 backpacks they distributed contained back-to-school supplies adapted for visually impaired learners. Jennifer commented that large print dark-lined notebooks, 20/20 pens and 1.5 power bar magnifiers were a huge hit with many low vision students.

Joanna Jones was inspired by the success of their project and brought the idea to the leadership of Women With Purpose. Then to identify the local need, the Rio Rancho school district was contacted. The response was encouraging. Teachers identified 15 students.

Plans are now underway to prepare the backpacks, which will be distributed in August at the beginning of the 2026–2027 school year. Each backpack will include specialized learning tools such as jumbo calculators, large-print rulers, bump-dot braille stickers, braille writing paper, and braille alphabet boards. All supplies will be new and purchased by Women With Purpose.

Sharing successful ideas often spark ideas in other communities. A project like this demonstrates how identifying unmet needs can turn simple ideas into meaningful opportunities for children to succeed in school.

Women with Purpose will meet Thursday, May 7, 10 AM, in the sanctuary to assemble treat bags for McCurdy School students. Rev. Tiffany Hollums will be our speaker. This will be our last meeting before summer hiatus.

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 officers 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. If you would like to contribute to this ministry, please mark "Haven House" on the memo line of your check.

GRADUATES

On Mother's Day, May 10, High Desert will present Bibles to several High School graduates as they begin a new journey in life. Please join us as we congratulate the following students and their parents/grandparents:

GRADUATE	HIGH SCHOOL	PARENTS/ GRANDPARENTS
Anna Coppolecchia	Wayne Valley High School	Dave & Lorraine Zapf
Lily DeSanctis	Cottonwood Classic High School	Lisa DeSanctis Dan & Robin Foley
Avery Samford	Pioneer High School Ann Arbor, MI	John & Glynda Samford
Summer Stipek	Rio Rancho High School	Harry & Frankie Combs
Aubrey Stuart	La Cueva High School	Andrew & Sheela Ammons
Riley Stuart	La Cueva High School	Andrew & Sheela Ammons



Additionally, we are proud to present a Bible to our own Ashley Gibbony, on the occasion of her graduation from professional massage therapy school, as she begins her new career. We are thankful that she will be able to continue her capable service to our church family as bus driver.

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 Herbert Jockheck, 82nd Airborne
Division, Fort Bragg, NC

Major Brian Koa Yee, United States Air
Force

Lt. Devin Marshall, Ft. Novosel, AL

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

Church Cook-Out

Friday, May 1

5:00-7:00 PM

In the Church Parking Lot



**Hot Dogs, Hamburgers,
and Beverages Provided**

Bring Side Dishes to Share

A New Mission Project

A Peaceful Habitation has the vision to love and mentor participants in Christian principles that will empower, encourage and enlighten women in transition from incarceration to their families and communities in New Mexico. They recently purchased a new home for their participants. A team from High Desert has removed an old shed and will be constructing a new shed on their property in May. On April 28, they poured the slab for the new shed. Thanks to Gordon Golsan, Kent Hays, Lynn Hood, and Bruce Packard for doing the heavy work!

Feast Day

at St. Joseph Mission School

*We're All Invited! Friday, May 8th
from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
San Fidel, New Mexico*

A Look Back at Holy Week



MAY 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SS = Sunday School JAM = Jesus and Music MS = MorningStar					1 11-2 Pantry 5-7 PM Church Cookout	2
3 9 AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	4 10 AM Bible Study	5	6 Office Hrs: 9-12 5:30 PM Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	7 10 AM Women with Purpose	8 10-3 Feast Day @ St. Joseph 3:30 JAM At MorningStar	9
10 MOTHERS' DAY 9 AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	11 10 AM Bible Study 10 AM FNMK Bagging	12 6 PM Ministry Team Meeting	13 Office Hrs: 9-12 9:00 AM Mission Committee Mtg 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	14 10 am Emmaus Agape Group	15 No JAM this week	16
17 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship 1:35 pm Baseball Trip	18 10 AM Bible Study	19 9 AM-12 noon Food Pantry	20 Office Hrs: 9-12 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	21 1-4 PM Food Pantry	22 3:30 JAM At the church	23
24 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship	25 10 AM Bible Study	26	27 Office Hrs: 9-12 5 5:30 Choir Practice	28	29	30
31 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship						

Care Ministry

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

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



Chad & Viola Jackson	May 3
Damon & Melissa Bruce	May 4
Bill & Karen Malinka	May 9
Mike & Nan Whelan	May 12
Richard & Virginia Bennett	May 20
Bud & Sandra Keller	May 27
Joh & Glenda Samford	May 30

Jody Meyer	May 1
Rogene Schramko	May 5
Olive Gandham	May 8
Viola Jackson	May 8
John Hannahs	May 10
Brian Kassel	May 12
Joyce Cowles	May 14
Irma Peter	May 15
Faye Lora	May 16
Christine Lucero	May 18
Diane Witt	May 19
Ron Sanders	May 21
Jonathan Finley	May 22
Bryce Hendricks	May 23
Carol Smith	May 25
Karen Canada	May 27
Aliece Nielsen	May 29
Janet Barnard	May 30
Ashley Bauman	May 30
Wanda Schierling	May 31

The Rio Grande Community will observe a memorial for Dodie Rossman on May 11 at 10:30 AM in their Activity Room. All are welcome.

**HIGH DESERT UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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

May, 2026 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for May, 2026 are:

Friday, May 1, at 11:00 AM

Tuesday, May 19, at 9:00 AM

Thursday, May 21, at 1:00 PM

May Collection: Canned Vegetables

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

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