

"Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives"

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

July, 2025, Issue 7

I always look forward to the Fourth of July. It is a great time of celebration with picnics, hotdogs, ice cream, fireworks, and parades. In 1776, we declared our independence from England. Since then, we have been through a lot of tough times as we have tried to live up to the principles and freedom our forefathers sought. In addition, we have had a tough time trying to live up to the teachings of Jesus Christ and being the Church He desires.

Right now, both the Church and our country are dealing with issues that are dividing us. Today, it appears that people are always looking for an opportunity to debate or argue about any political or moral issue. When instead we should be united and focused on the fact that we were created as one nation under God. Folks, we need to get back to God, to the basics. I don't care whether you are a Democrat, Republican, Independent or whatever, or what your opinions are on the latest political or ethical issues. My only concern is whether you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and if you have a personal relationship with Him.

I truly believe the answer to our nation's problems is not in

advancing a certain political agenda or the dominance of one particular political party. Our root problems are spiritual and only a revival can reverse the current downward trend of our country. Listen to one of the best Biblical references to revival from 2 Chronicles 7:14 – "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and **heal their land.**"

In this passage God makes two critical points. First in telling us to "seek His face," God is basically telling us to stop looking for help and solutions in everything in life except Him. As a nation, we sometimes become obsessed with the idea that one person, one political party or one piece of legislation will solve all our problems. We must make God, and God alone, the primary focus of our lives and this country.

Secondly, we as individuals and a nation need to get on our knees more often in prayer. It appears that we as a country, as a Church and as individuals have forgotten how to pray and the power of prayer. Someone once said that America was better off when folks opened meals with a prayer instead of a can opener. Think about the amount of time we spend each day texting, on Facebook and Twitter compared to the time we spend alone with God in prayer. In

James 5:16, we are assured that the prayers of the righteous are both powerful and effective. Most of us can cite examples where prayers have changed the course of our lives and the lives of others. What America needs right now more than anything else is more bended knees and earnest prayers.

So, let's pray for our country and its leaders each and every day. May they, and we, seek God's face and turn back to Him as a nation. May we again be one nation under God.

Every prayer counts just as every vote counts. May God continue to bless America; and may America continue to bless God.

God Bless, Reuben

See you Sunday!



Farewell Letter from the Kottenbrook Family

There are no words to express how much this church family has meant to the Kottenbrooks. You've shared in our joys, the marriage of our daughter Mary, the birth of our five grandchildren. You've also been there through our trials, grieves, and losses. It has been my greatest honor and joy to be your pianist through the years. We can never express how thankful we are for the many meals during Mom's cancer battle and the many car rides for Mom to see Dad. We could have never made it through December, January and February as we took care of Mom had it not been for the visits, meals, calls, cards. I could go on. The prayers especially are what got us through that difficult time. High Desert will always be very dear to our family. We love ya'll and if we never meet again on this earth, we know we will see you all in GLORY! John, Lori, & Benjamin Kottenbrook; and Donny & Mary Jenko & kids

Pantry Report



We have just filed the final TEFAP report for Roadrunner as of June 30 (2025). While there are lots of comparisons and definite increasing

numbers, it is significant that High Desert Methodist Food Pantry served and provided for 6,228 individuals during the past twelve months. The 208 Households served in June was the all-time high (so far)!

The report and information is filed in the Pantry Reports file. We can certainly use this information for grants, church or other reporting needs. We will start the new year with new enrollment beginning with the July 4, 2025 distribution date.

Thanks for all that you and our volunteers and supporters do to make this Ministry succeed!

John Samford

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, 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

Lieutenant Kristina Scott, US Navy

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

Women with Purpose Projects September 2024 - May 2025

Serving the following Organizations...

Interfaith Bible Center, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, New Mexico Heart Gallery, Saranam, Locker 505, Rio Rancho Police, Corrales Police, Bernalillo Police, Sandoval Sheriff Dept and Santa Ana Police, 4 Paws Pet Food, Ruth's Closet, A Peaceful Habitation, Feed New Mexico Kids

***September**—Locker 505 (Provides clothes, school supplies and toiletries to needy students), 4 Paws Pet Food Ministry (Provides pet food to needy clients)

50 small bags of toiletries, 50 small bags of school supplies, new underwear and socks for children, three large boxes of various school supplies for Locker 505

Several bags and cans of dog and cat food collected

***October**—Saranam (Provides housing; strives to end homelessness)

37 Birthday Party Bags each containing cake mix, frosting, candles, plates, napkins, book, and a greeting card

***November**—New Mexico Heart Gallery (Provides resources and support for children aging out of foster care)

10 fabric totes filled with baby blankets, books, pacifiers, caps, sippy cups, and toys

***December**—Pastor Joanne Landry (Interfaith Bible Center), Pastor Chris Davis (Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, Gallup), Rio Rancho Police Dept

100 pairs of socks stuffed with flashlights, lip balm, hand warmers, granola bars, and candy for Pastor Joanne Landry

150 small toys to fill Christmas stockings to be distributed by Pastor Chris Davis

Over 100 toys gathered, with the help of the congregation, to be distributed by the Rio Rancho Police Department

***January**—Rio Rancho Police, Bernalillo Police, Sandoval Sheriff Dept, Corrales Police, Gallup Police, Santa Ana Police

62 comfort bags containing a blanket, teddy bear, and small bags of toiletries for children in stress

***February**—Ruth's Closet, Pastor Joanne Landry, Pastor Chris Davis

16 slightly used purses for Ruth's Closet (Provides new and gently used clothing to women)

100 winter bags containing hats, gloves, scarves, hand warmers, and socks to be distributed by Pastor Joanne and Pastor Chris

***March**—A Peaceful Habitation, Locker 505

10 Laundry baskets filled with detergent, dryer sheets, spot remover, and dish soap for A Peaceful Habitation (provides resources and support to women recently released from incarceration)

30 small bags of toiletries for children given to Locker 505

***April**—Ruth's Closet

10 large gift bags filled with shampoo, deodorant, razors, etc. and several gently used women's clothing items

(continued)



Women with Purpose Projects – Continued:

***May**—Saranam, Joe Harris Elementary School

14 sand pails filled with outdoor toys and sunscreen for Saranam families

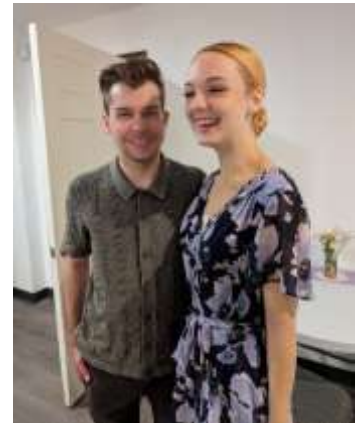
20 reusable water bottles filled with lip balm, drink mix, granola bar, candy, etc. for 10 students at Joe Harris Elementary and unhoused individuals.

Note: We take no funds from High Desert United Methodist Church. If folks want to donate to Women with Purpose Projects money will be held as a church budget line item. We have between \$2,500-\$3,000 at this time.

Under the “umbrella” of Women with Purpose is Feed New Mexico Kids. The assembly and distribution of this ministry occur at another time during the month. This school term, 2024-2025, we have assembled approximately 4,500 weekend food packs at a cost of over \$29,000. These monies are kept separately from WWP funds.



New Pianist: We are pleased to introduce our new pianist, Aliece Nielson, who comes to us from Heights First Church of Albuquerque. Aliece holds a Bachelor's degree in Religion, Music minor, and a Master's degree in Christian Ministry. She has experience as a church pianist, accompanist, instructor, and vocalist. We are fortunate to have Aliece and her husband, Sean McElrath, join our church family.



BE A KID AGAIN - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Do you want to be a kid again? Do you want to relive memories of the past? Do you want to have fun and enjoy fellowship with others? Then join us on Thursday August 14 and Friday August 15. This year we will focus on missions. We will begin at 9 am with a brief worship of hymn selection and a short devotional which will be followed by a mission presentation. Various individuals will lead the devotionals and presentation each morning.

After a break we will have a time of crafts, making items for our various mission projects. Then there will be a time for indoor games. We will end each morning by sharing lunch together.

Here's a great chance to spend a morning having fun with friends. This is also a great opportunity for you to invite a friend or neighbor to join us. Ask anybody who participated last year and they will tell you that they had a great time; you don't want to miss it this year!

Bible Studies for Everyone

Do you want to grow closer to the Lord in 2025 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:

(The Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday evening studies are taking a summer break.)

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: *Francie Larsen is leading a new class on Book of James, from July 9 through July 30.*

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

ONLINE STUDIES: You can participate in one of Tony Smith's online studies on Isaiah Daniel, John and Revelation at coraleno@aol.com.

JULY SECOND MILE GIVING

4PAWS PET FOOD

Our Second Mile Giving for July will go to **4Paws Pet Food**. In partnership with the 4 Paws Pet Food Bank in Corrales, High Desert is providing free dog and cat food to the clients of the High Desert Methodist Food Pantry each month on the first Friday. This ministry supports those in our community who are struggling to feed their companion animals. Because of limited financial resources, many Pantry clients give up their own personal food to feed their pets. Over the past year, we have been able to help our Pantry clients continue to enjoy the positive benefits of pet ownership by keeping their pets fed and out of shelters. If you would like to support this ministry, please mark "4Paws Pet Food" on the memo line of your check.

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE

Who was Jairus in the New Testament?

Find the answer elsewhere in this issue.



Singers needed: Since the choir is taking a break for the summer, we are looking for individuals or groups who are willing to provide special music one Sunday, either at the 9:00 or 11:00 service. Please see Drew Ammons or Reuben to volunteer.

JULY 2025

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------|---|---|--|--|-----------|
| MS = MorningStar | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 Office Hrs: 9-12 | 3 | 4 <i>Happy Fourth of July</i> 11:00-2:00 Food Pantry | 5 |
| 6 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM MS <u>11 AM Worship</u> | 7 | 8 6:00 PM Ministry Team Mtg | 9 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 14 | 15 9-12 Food Pantry | 16 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study | 17 1-4 PM Food Pantry | 18 | 19 |
| 20 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 21 | 22 | 23 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 28 | 29 | 30 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 AM Bible Study | 31 | | |

The Church in Mission

ST. JOSEPH MISSION SCHOOL WORK DAYS: June 2-5, 2025

Below are scenes from our latest Mission Trip to St. Joseph School in San Fidel, NM.

Many thanks to Jeff Bair, Kent Hays, Dann Meyer, Bruce Packard and James, a man from the local community, for building 88 feet of sidewalk on the school campus.



A big thank you also goes to Linn Carlson, Emily Sue Chambers, Bonnie Korngiebel, and Lou Williams for painting the interior of a trailer that will be used to house a new administrative staff person in the fall. One of the students, 8th grader Emily, helped us paint as well.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

During the month of July, we will be collecting school supplies for our local schools, Pantry clients, St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel, and Gallup Nazarene Church. As we all know there are many families that cannot afford to buy all the items required for their children's classes. While we are focusing on the basic supplies for the local schools, we are focusing on art supplies for St. Joseph Mission School:

| LOCAL SCHOOLS | ST. JOSEPH MISSION |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Pencils | Crayons |
| Crayons | Pencil Boxes |
| Regular Glue Sticks | Art Paper |
| Notebooks | Drawing/Sketch Pads |
| Notebook Paper | Water Colors |
| Children's Scissors | Washable Kids Paint |
| Erasers | Colored Pencils |
| Backpacks | Crayola Markers |



You may place your donation in the bins in the Narthex.

Fellowship Activities

On Thursday, June 5th, a group of High Desert folks enjoyed a trip to the Wheels Museum in Albuquerque. Many thanks to Ken Dewbre and the Fellowship Committee for organizing this and many other outings throughout the year.

Coming Fellowship outings include a trip to the Santa Fe Opera on August 2nd, and an Isotopes Baseball game on September 7th. The Opera trip is filled, but there are plenty of seats available for the baseball game...sign-up for the game will begin in August.



At my lowest...
God is my **HOPE**.
At my darkest...
God is my **LIGHT**.
At my weakest...
God is my **STRENGTH**.
At my saddest...
God is my **COMFORTER**.

iBelieve.com

Care Ministry

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

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|
| 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 |
| Lucille Few | 920 Riverview Dr. SE, Rio Rancho 87124 | |
| Vi Ortega | Care Free 10916 Juan Tabo Place NE Albq. 87111 | 288-2160 |
| Pat McElwain | 4536 Ambrose Alday SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124 | 235-7484 |
| Judy Ballard | Ridgmar Place, Apt. 3405, 2151 Green Oak Rd., Ft. Worth TX 76116 | 240-0912 |



| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Tony & Shiela Smith | July 4 |
| Ron Sanders & Janet Barnard | July 6 |
| Del & Gay Smart | July 10 |
| John & Lori Kottenbrook | July 12 |
| Paul & Rose Meyer | July 22 |
| Antonio & Taylor Clouse De Blanc | July 29 |
| Mel & Faye Lora | July 31 |

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Alex Pacheco | July 1 |
| Barry Birch | July 2 |
| Linn Carlson | July 3 |
| Grover Donahoe | July 4 |
| Norma Mearns | July 5 |
| Sandy Dewbre | July 6 |
| Riley Siverts | July 7 |
| David Zapf | July 7 |
| Lana Packard | July 8 |
| Carolyn McDowell | July 9 |
| Gwen Polhemus | July 9 |
| Shawn Colbert | July 14 |
| Ione Harrand | July 18 |
| Patty Latter | July 21 |
| Kai Warrior | July 31 |
| Warren Herrington | July 22 |
| Kathy Hays | July 26 |
| Dottie Hester | July 28 |
| Earl Hester | July 28 |
| Joanna Jones | July 28 |
| Sanjay Rauri | July 28 |
| Shirley Rexroth | July 31 |

ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE:

JAIRUS WAS A RULER IN THE SYNAGOGUE WHOSE DAUGHTER WAS NEAR DEATH. HE IMploRED JESUS TO HEAL HER. ON THE WAY TO HIS HOUSE, IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE CHILD HAD DIED. JESUS ASSURED THEM THAT SHE WAS JUST SLEEPING, AND HE RAISED HER UP AND SHE WAS HEALED. (LUKE 8: 41-56)

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Office Hours: Wednesday 9 AM - Noon

Email: highdesertumc@outlook.com

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

July, 2025 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for July, 2025 are:

Friday, July 4, at 11:00 AM

Tuesday, July 15, at 9:00 AM

Thursday, July 17, at 1:00 PM

July Collection: Pasta & Pasta Sauce

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

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