

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

June, 2026, Issue 6

On the night that He was arrested by the religious authorities, Jesus shared His last Passover meal with His disciples in the Upper Room and instituted the Lord's Supper. The Gospel of Luke tells us that a dispute arose among the disciples as to who was the greatest. It may be that it was this particular argument that led Jesus to do something totally unexpected in order to teach the disciples and us a lesson in servant leadership.

While the disciples were arguing about who was the greatest, Jesus gets up, takes off His robe, wraps a towel around His waist, takes a basin of water and begins to wash the dusty feet of His friends. The very same men one of whom will betray Him before the night is over, another who will deny knowing Him three times that very same night, and the rest who will desert Him in the Garden of Gethsemane later that night.

Jesus set an example for us to follow. He demonstrated an attitude of humility and service. We, like the disciples, are challenged today to set aside our desires for power and position, just as Jesus did. We are to follow Jesus into the areas of need in our families, our community and the world. The foundation of God's kingdom is

love expressed as service to one another rather than pursuit of greed, power and control.

We live in a world that is full of people who are standing on their rights when they should be like Jesus willing to get dirty helping others. While most people are fighting to reach the top, we as Christians should be reaching for the towels. When we are tempted to think of our dignity, our social status and our rights, let us remember the picture of the Son of God, girded with a towel, kneeling at the feet of His disciples, with a bucket of water.

Are you willing to take up the towel, do the dirty work that no one else wants to do? Or are you going to stand on your rights while there are needs all around you? Look for opportunities to serve, to make a difference. It's easy to miss them if you are not alert and making an effort to look. Sometimes we get so focused on our own problems that we don't see God calling us to help others. We need to follow the advice of John Wesley: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can."

In Matthew 20:28, Jesus said that He came not to be served but to serve. In the washing of the disciples' feet, He set an example for us to follow. Are you willing to take up a towel and follow Him? We are a church that is devoted to service and to following Jesus' command to love our

neighbors as ourselves. I hope and pray that you will find where you can use your gifts and talents in serving the Lord. In closing, if you are not kneeling at the feet of others, wearing a servant's towel, you are in the wrong place. Blessed be those who take up the towel in Jesus' name.

God Bless, Reuben

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

**New singers
always welcome:**



The choir is taking the summer off. If you are willing to provide special music for either the 9:00 or the 11:00 service (solo, duet, trio, quartet, etc.) see Drew Ammons, Music Director.



Exciting News: We are planning to reinstate our Handbell Choir, under the direction of Virginia Bennett and Drew Ammons. You are invited to join us for rehearsals on Wednesdays at 12:00 noon in the sanctuary, even if you can't read music. We will teach you – it will be easy and fun! More details to follow.

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: *Led by Francie Larsen, studying "Be Like Jesus" starting June 24.*

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: *Off for the summer.*

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.*

JUNE SECOND MILE GIVING **GIFT CARDS FOR TEACHERS**

Our Second Mile Giving for June will go towards the purchase of Gifts Cards for Teachers. Our teachers do an outstanding job in teaching, nurturing, and caring for our children. They go beyond the extra mile to reach out and be there for the children. They definitely deserve our appreciation and thanks. Unfortunately, there is never enough funds, and many teachers have to use their own money to purchase supplies for their classroom. We will present the five teachers associated with High Desert their cards in July so that they can prepare for the start of the school year in August. If you would like to contribute to this ministry please mark "Gift Cards for Teachers" on the memo line of your check.

A New Mission Project



Bob with the almost-finished shed

removed an old shed, poured a concrete slab, and constructed a new shed on their property. Thanks to Gordon Golsan, Kent Hays, Lynn Hood, Bob Enterline, and Bruce Packard for doing the heavy work!

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 recently



The finished product

Ongoing Mission Projects:

Teams will be going to St. Joseph Mission School in San Fidel and to Gallup for work projects in June. Watch for further details and pictures coming in next month's issue.

It's a Wrap!

The 2025-26 school term has come to a close. The dedicated volunteers who shop for food, move chairs, set up tables, count out snack items, and assemble food packs for our Feed New Mexico Kids ministry will have a well-deserved two-month break. For the past seven years, we have provided weekend food support to students identified as food-challenged in five local public schools. In addition, this past school term, we partnered with Saint Joseph Catholic School in San Fidel, assisting those students with food. We have been busy!

Our requested number of snack packs goes up each year. For example, we packed and donated 4,439 bags during the 2024-25 school term. This past school term, our total number of bags was 5,299. (When we started this ministry in 2019-20, our total number of donated bags for one term was 500!). The numbers tell us that this is a great need in our community.

We are grateful that we have consistently been able to offer food to every child identified by school personnel as food-challenged. We can do this because of the faithful financial donations of our own church attendees and folks who hear about us and want to help. We want to give a special shout-out to the Kiwanis Club of Corrales for the generous support over the years, as well as the NMAC Endowment Distribution Committee. Each snack pack of eleven food items costs over \$6.00.



If you are looking for something to do on August 10, just show up in the church sanctuary around 10:00 AM and start filling bags. We would love to have you. We have a great team of folks of all ages from our church and our community. We believe this ministry really matters as we strive to live out Matthew 25:35-40.

In closing, let us share a note from one of our ROCKSTAR school counselors.

“This year has been especially difficult for many of your MCE families. We’ve had families with multiple children lose their food stamps, parents who have lost their jobs, and families bundled together because of housing insecurity. We have over seventy students receiving food through our weekly distribution. Our kids go home a little more relieved on the weekend



because they know they won’t go hungry. Families appreciate the help so much. Just this morning, a parent told me that sometimes they have to make the terrible choice on whether to pay for gas to make it to work or to buy food instead. This program gives these families a little breathing room. Thank you so much for your support over the past few years. There’s not a lot our kids can depend on, but at least they can depend on not being hungry on weekends.”

Wanda and Gordon Golsan

***Fun and Fellowship with our Church Family
Church Picnic – May 1***

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



Feast Day at St. Joseph - May 8



Isotopes Game – May 17



RECOGNITION OF OUR VETERANS



On Sunday July 5, 2026, we are planning a special recognition for the veterans of our congregation. So that we can honor and thank you for your service, there will be a bulletin insert listing all of our veterans. If you are a veteran, please provide the following information to the Church Office or to Reuben.

NAME: _____ EMAIL OR PHONE NUMBER: _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____ SERVICE TIME: From _____ to _____

RANK AT TIME OF DISCHARGE: *(optional)* _____

METALS & AWARDS RECEIVED: *(optional)* _____

SERVED AT FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: _____

If you received this newsletter electronically, please pick up a hard copy from the narthex, or from the bulletin insert, to complete and return it to the church.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION



This year we will celebrate the 250th birthday of our nation. To mark this special event, we will have a church cookout and patriotic program on Friday July 3, and patriotic worship services on Sunday July 5. For the cookout, we will set up tables in the sanctuary with a meal consisting of hamburgers, hotdogs, and barbecue with covered dishes and desserts. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The program will consist of patriotic songs and skits. On Sunday July 5 in addition to the traditional patriotic hymns, we will recognize our veterans and celebrate the fact that we were created as one nation under God. This is a great opportunity for you to invite your family, friends and neighbors.

***New Distribution Days for the High Desert Food Pantry
Starting in **July**, the Pantry will distribute food on the
1st and 3rd Fridays of each month,
instead of Tuesdays and Thursdays.
This change will improve overall management of the program
and facilitate the distribution of food.***

June 2026



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| SS = Sunday School JAM = Jesus and Music MS = MorningStar | | | | | | |
| | 1 10 AM Bible Study Mission Trip at St. Joseph | 2 Mission Trip at St. Joseph | 3 Office Hrs: 9-12 Mission Trip at St. Joseph | 4 Mission Trip at St. Joseph | 5 11-2 Food Pantry 3:30 JAM At MorningStar | 6 |
| 7 9 AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 8 10 AM Bible Study 10 AM FNMK Bagging | 9 | 10 Office Hrs: 9-12 9:00 AM Mission Committee Mtg Annual Conference | 11 Annual Conference | 12 No JAM this week Annual Conference Mission Trip to Gallup | 13 Annual Conference Mission trip to Gallup |
| 14 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship | 15 10 AM Bible Study | 16 9 AM-12 noon Food Pantry | 17 Office Hrs: 9-12 | 18 1-4 PM Food Pantry | 19 3:30 JAM At the church | 20 |
| 21 Fathers' Day 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship | 22 10 AM Bible Study | 23 | 24 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9AM Worship & Palmilla Serv. 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11AM Worship | 29 10 AM Bible Study | 30 | | | | |



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 |



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|-----------------------------|---------|
| John & Patty Latter | June 4 |
| Jim & Joan Bauman | June 5 |
| David & Karen Canada | June 8 |
| Earl & Dottie Hester | June 8 |
| Ron & Jane Komatz | June 9 |
| Dan & Jody Meyer | June 12 |
| Bryce & Sar Hendricks | June 16 |
| Sanjay & Dorcas Rauri | June 20 |
| Harry & Frankie Combs | June 21 |
| Rick Speed & Wanda W-Jerome | June 23 |
| Mike & Linda Bates | June 26 |
| Bruce & Lana Packard | June 27 |



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|-------------------|---------|
| Kent Hays | June 1 |
| Del Smart | June 2 |
| Joanne Claybrook | June 5 |
| Sandra Keller | June 6 |
| Sheela Ammons | June 7 |
| Becky Kim | June 7 |
| Judy Ballard | June 10 |
| Rudy Hoffman | June 10 |
| Tony Smith | June 11 |
| Leslie Barnett | June 12 |
| John Samford | June 15 |
| Deanna Allee | June 15 |
| Steven Hunyady | June 16 |
| Frank Rotolo | June 17 |
| Rod Warpole | June 18 |
| Pat Lein | June 18 |
| David Canada | June 21 |
| Barbara Robertson | June 21 |
| Ron Komatz | June 22 |
| Jane Butel | June 23 |
| Dale Miller | June 24 |

For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. Isaiah 44:3

**HIGH DESERT UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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

June, 2026 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for June, 2026 are:

Friday, June 5, at 11:00 AM

Tuesday, June 16, at 9:00 AM

Thursday, June 18, at 1:00 PM

June Collection: Boxed cereal, regular size

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

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