

“Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

January, 2025, Issue 1

Well, another Christmas has come and gone, and a new year is upon us! I would like to thank all of you who worshipped with us on Christmas Eve. The Christmas Eve services were beautiful as we closed with *Silent Night* and all the candles sparkled throughout the sanctuary.

Happy New Year! Can you believe that it already 2025? Each year brings us new opportunities and new challenges. We don't know what is going to happen in 2025; we don't know what lies ahead of us in the coming months. But we can be sure of one thing and that is that Jesus Christ will be with us. Remember His final words in Matthew 28:20 – “And lo, I will be with you always, even to the end of the age.” All we have to do is to walk in faith. So, let me give you some suggestions for walking in faith in 2025. First, if you have not already done it, set aside a quiet time with the Lord each day. Find some time each and every day to be alone with the Lord in prayer and reading the Bible.

As you study the life and ministry of Jesus in the Gospels, you see that Jesus was always in prayer with His Father. Mark 1:35 tells us: “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary (quiet) place, where He prayed.” If our Lord and Savior needed time alone with His Father to meet the demands and temptations of each day, how much more do we need to spend time alone with God in prayer? I guarantee you that it will make each day go better for you. Psalm 119:105 states: “Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” God has given us the best instruction manual for life, the Bible. Let the Bible be your roadmap or compass as you navigate the ups and downs of 2025. You could make it a goal to read through the Bible this year or to study certain books such as the Gospels or the Apostle Paul's letters. Or you could do like I do and use different devotional books to guide your daily scripture readings. You may find the *Upper Room* or *Daily Bread* to be helpful. If you really want a challenge on giving your life to God, I would recommend *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers.

I would also encourage you to get involved in a weekly Bible Study. There's Tony Smith's Bible Study on the *Book of Revelations* on Sunday morning at 10 am. On Monday morning, we have a Bible Study at 10:30 am which is studying various books of the Bible. The Bible Study on Wednesday morning at 10:30 am is studying the Holy Spirit. And our Wednesday night class which meets at 5:30 pm is studying *Act Like Jesus*. Finally, make it a habit to be in worship each Sunday. I have found over the years that there is nothing that compares to Christian fellowship. Hebrews 10:25 states: “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.” It is my hope and prayer that each of us will grow closer to the Lord in 2025. Happy New Year!

God Bless.

Reuben

JANUARY SECOND MILE GIVING:

For January, our Second Mile Giving will go to support the Navajo Reservation Relief Fund. For fourteen years, Rev. Chris Davis of the Gallup Nazarene Church has worked to meet the needs, both practical and spiritual, of those of the Navajo Nation and her community in Gallup. In 2024 we made three mission trips to Gallup. In May, we constructed a new sidewalk in front of the church. In November, we purchased a new refrigerator for the church kitchen. Through the Women with Purpose, we provide supplies to Chris throughout the year. She is in need of food that she distributes to the homeless in Gallup and the resident of the Navajo Nation. To support this ministry, please mark "Relief Mission" on the memo line of your check to the church.

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE

Winter Clothing Collection. Each winter we collect gloves, stocking caps, blankets, sleeping bags, coats, sweaters, and new socks for the homeless. If you wish to contribute, you may place your donations in the bins in the Narthex.

Thanks

Due to your generous contributions of \$3,860 to Heifer International, we were able to purchase, 5 heifers, 50 flocks of chickens, and 3 goats.

LOOKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

As we begin a new year, are you looking for something to do? Have you made a resolution to make a difference this year? Well, here is a list of where you can help us as a church:

Help with the Pantry – see John Samford

Work with Women with Purpose – see Earlene Price and Wanda Golsan

Help with the sound/video system – see Bruce Packard

Serve as a greeter or usher – See Reuben

Sing in the choir – see Frank Rotolo and Lori Kottenbrook

Lead worship at MorningStar – See Reuben

Help assemble food packages for Feed NM Kids – join us on the second Monday of each month

Help keep the church clean – see Reuben

Serve on mission projects – see Reuben



Fellowship Activities

Coming Soon, January Fellowship Outing: Lunch at Milly's on Jefferson: Tuesday, January 7th at 11:00 AM. The bus will leave the church at 10:15 AM for those who reserved a seat.

A Thank You Note

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and especially the clients of Haven House, Inc, thank you for your generous support of this organization. Monetary contributions help to cover the day-to-day costs to operate the shelter. Donations of clothing and household goods give our clients a renewed sense of normalcy and agency. These contributions of support from the community uplifts our staff and clients every day. These contributions enable us to continue providing much needed shelter, advocacy, and supportive services to victims of domestic violence throughout Sandoval County.

From all of us at Haven House, Inc., thank you again for your support for our work.

With our continued gratitude, Estella Weitz, Executive Director

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE

What was Siloam in the New Testament?
Find the answer elsewhere in this issue.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

In Luke 5:16 we are told that often Jesus withdrew to out-of-the-way places for prayer. Mark 1:35 tells us that very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up and went to a secluded place to pray. Jesus made it a habit to spend a daily quiet time with His Father. As you consider making resolutions for 2025, give serious thought to adopting Jesus' practice of a daily quiet time. Set aside at least 30 minutes each day for time alone with the Lord in prayer and reading the Bible. There are three devotionals in the Narthex to assist you in selecting your daily readings: the *Upper Room*, the *Daily Bread*, and *My Utmost for His Highest*. Take one home and grow closer in your personal relationship with the Lord in 2025.

SQUARE DANCING LESSONS

The Duke City Square Dance Club has invited us to an Open House at the Albuquerque Square Dance Center (ASDC) on January 10 from 7-9 pm to introduce square dancing to the community. In addition, they are offering Beginning Square Dance Lessons every Thursday night starting on January 16 from 7-9 pm at ASDC, located at 4915 Hawkins St NE, Albuquerque. These lessons are open to all, with no partner or experience required. The first night is free. Whether someone is looking for a new hobby, a way to connect with others, or simply a fun activity to enjoy, square dancing is a perfect fit.

Church Library – Check it out

Take a walk with Christ, the disciples and God. Our church library is filled with wonderful books to help us reflect on the historical meaning of Christ in our lives. So many authors, so many books.... Always new ways to make connections to the scriptures as we think about how God takes care of us.



Please join Women with Purpose

Thursday, January 2, 10:00 AM

We will be assembling “Bears and Blankets” comfort kits for local police officers to give to children in crisis situations.

**There will be a devotional time,
plus music and refreshments!**

Come, and bring a friend!

JAM Sessions **(Jesus and Music)**

Join us on Friday afternoons at 3:30 in the Sanctuary for a time of playing instruments and singing some of our favorite Christian songs. Everyone is welcome. For details, see Drew Ammons or John Kottenbrook.



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 Liberty, NC

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

**DID YOU KNOW THAT “ONE OF OURS” IS GOING ON A MISSION TRIP
TO COSTA RICA, JANUARY 22-31, 2025?**



Yes, Linn Carlson is “on the road again”!!

After a 5-year hiatus from mission trips, Linn & a dear friend of 22+ years from Tenn. will be joining a mission team from Pennsylvania that has been going to a shantytown, Guarari, outside of San Jose, Costa Rica for years.

She will be going with a team to work with a missionary, Lillian Solt, at Center for Health Education and Health Services (CEDCAS), Heredia, Los Lagos, Costa Rica. *CEDCAS promotes*

and maintains “whole person” health care which includes physical, emotional, social & spiritual health for all they serve. The services provided by CEDCAS create opportunities for creative Christian evangelism within the larger community and Costa Rica.

The team will be: 1) Renovating 2 owner-occupied homes, to improve the safety & improve the quality of living for the owners & their families; 2) to lead Bible stories, games & crafts for the children of Guararí during Kid’s Club Saturday.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Linn has discovered that the children are required wear school uniforms & black soled shoes to attend their school. The cost of the uniforms and shoes is approximately \$130.00 per set. Many families cannot afford uniforms for all of their children. So, in some families, 1 child will go to school only in the morning, then go home for lunch, and then another child will change into the uniform & be able to attend school for only the afternoon. ***This broke my heart!***

Linn will be collecting funds to take with her that will be used to buy some uniforms for these children/families so that all of the children can attend school every day\all day!
If you would like to provide some support for this mission– please write a check to HDUMC with Memo line note: “Mission Trip-Costa Rica”. Thank you! Linn



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 to grow in your personal relationship with the Lord is to participate in a weekly Bible study. If you are not currently participating in a weekly Bible study, please join one of the following studies:

SUNDAY 10 AM: Studying the *Book of Revelation*. Meets in the classroom and is led by Tony Smith.

MONDAY 10:30 AM: Studying *The Sermon on the Mount*. Meets in the classroom and is led by Marie Donat.

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: Studying *The Holy Spirit*. Meets in the classroom and is led by John Kottenbrook.

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: Studying *Act Like Jesus, How Can I Put My Faith into Action?* by Randy Frazee. Meets in the sanctuary and is led by Reuben Thomas.

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.

SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY



This year, the Big Professional Football Game, the Super Bowl, is on Sunday February 9. Over the past few years, many churches have held a Soup-er Bowl Sunday on the same day as an opportunity to collect food for their local food pantries. So, between Sundays January 19 and February 9, bring cans of soup for the High Desert Methodist Food Pantry. Think of the difference we can make if each person brought at least one can! You may place your donations in the bins in the Narthex.

Also on Sunday February 9, wear the colors of your favorite college or pro football team. Let's have a lot of fun!

Following the 11 am worship service, we will have our second "Chili Cookoff." There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those who want to enter their chili. Please join us to sample some great chili dishes and vote for your favorite. A great time of fellowship before going home to watch the game.

The Church in Mission



Drew's music with kids at St. Joseph's school



Giving gifts to the kids at St. Joseph's



Feed NM Kids bagging



Officers with toy donations

Christmas at High Desert



Deanna Allee's family lighting the Advent Candles



Scott & Irma Reeder in Concert

JANUARY

2025

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|-----------|
| SS = Sunday School MS = MorningStar | | | | | | |
| | | | 1 Happy New Year! (No classes, choir, or office hours) | 2 9 AM Fellowship Comm. Mtg. 10 AM Women with Purpose | 3 11-2; Food Pantry 3:30 PM Jesus & Music | 4 |
| 5 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 6 10:30 AM Bible Study | 7 11 AM Lunch at Millie's Restaurant | 8 Office Hrs: 9-12 9:00 AM Mission Comm. Mtg. 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice | 9 10 AM Emmaus Agape Gr. | 10 3:30 PM Jesus & Music | 11 |
| 12 9 AM Worship, 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 13 10:00 FNMK Bagging 10:30 AM Bible Study | 14 | 15 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice | 16 1 PM-4 PM Pantry | 17 3:30 PM Jesus & Music | 18 |
| 19 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 20 10:30 AM Bible Study MLK Jr. Day | 21 9AM – 12 Noon Pantry | 22 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice | 23 | 24 3:30 PM Jesus & Music | 25 |
| 26 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship | 27 10:30 AM Bible Study | 28 | 29 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice | 30 Celebration of Life – Ella Jerome 10 AM | 31 3:30 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 |
| Polly Van Lenten | C/O Kim Koonce, 1128 San Augusta, Bernalillo, NM 87004 | |
| 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 |



| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Del & Francie Larsen | Jan. 4 |
| Gary & Laurie Smothermon | Jan. 11 |
| Raj & Cynthia Gandham | Jan. 16 |
| Steven & Ruby Hunyady | Jan. 22 |
| Don & Sity Roach | Jan. 24 |



| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Wanda Whittlesey-Jerome | Jan. 6 |
| Dayton Molzen | Jan. 6 |
| Sheree Osborn | Jan. 8 |
| Paul Rexroth | Jan. 10 |
| Bailey Siverts | Jan. 11 |
| Jearlene Savell | Jan. 13 |
| Helen-Hill-Stephens | Jan. 18 |
| Jane Komatz | Jan. 20 |
| Bonnie Korngiebel | Jan. 24 |
| Valerie Forbes | Jan. 25 |
| Ken Schierling | Jan. 28 |
| Ian Colbert | Jan. 28 |
| Mac Esquibel | Jan. 30 |
| Jeff Pratt | Jan. 30 |
| Liz Thompson | Jan. 30 |
| Holly Benson | Jan. 30 |

ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES

IN THE BIBLE:

SILOAM WAS A HOLY, HEALING POOL OF WATER. JESUS TOLD A MAN WHO WAS BLIND FROM BIRTH TO WASH IN THE POOL. WHEN HE DID HIS SIGHT WAS INSTANTLY AND MIRACULOUSLY RESTORED.

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

JANUARY, 2025 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for January, 2025 are:

Friday, January 3, at 11:00 AM

Thursday, January 16, at 1:00 PM

Tuesday, January 21, at 9:00 AM

January Collection: Dry Beans & Rice (small bags)

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

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