

"Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives"

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN'S RAMBLINGS

May, 2025, Issue 5

Well, Easter has come and gone for another year. I truly appreciate all those who helped with and participated in the services of Holy Week. It was great to have the traditional Maundy Thursday Service with the focus on the Lord's Supper and Jesus washing the feet of His disciples. I hoped that the stripping of the sanctuary prior to Good Friday touched your heart as much as it did mine. Special thanks to Marie Donat, Sue Hinchcliffe, and Bruce Packard for leading us through the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Hopefully, you gained a deeper understanding and appreciation for what our Lord and Savior endured and suffered so that we can have forgiveness of our sins, freedom from our guilts, God's amazing grace, and the promise of life beyond the grave.

The attendance at the sunrise and worship services on Easter was 194. Thanks to all who came and worshipped with us. However, after the 11 am service, someone said:

"Wait 'til next week!" There appears to normally be an anti-climax attitude following Easter. You know - I have been to church; I sang the familiar Easter hymns "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" and "Up from the Grave He Arose;" listened to a boring sermon; and put a few dollars in the collection plate. I'm good 'til Christmas!

Then there's also the attitude that summer is coming, so I'll just take a break from the church and the Lord until the fall and Christmas. After all everything is going well right now, my health is good, my family and relationships are well, and my finances are stable, so I really don't need God right now. Right! I hope none of you are falling for this trap or attitude. If you haven't realized it by now, we need God more than He needs us. Life is full of challenges and is always throwing us a curve ball and doing the unexpected.

Now I'm not saying that you shouldn't take vacations, visit family and friends, or rest, but I would suggest that you continue to practice the following spiritual habits as much as possible:

1. Attend worship services as your schedule permits.
2. Spend a daily quiet time with the Lord in prayer and reading the Bible.
3. Participate in a weekly Bible Study.
4. Get involved in one of our service projects as we continue to love our neighbors.

The key point is don't take a break from the Lord! It's okay to take a break from TV, politics, exercise, etc. But the one thing that I have learned over my life is that we all need God, especially today. Life is better, more meaningful, and enjoyable when you walk each day with the Lord. Those who leave everything in God's hand will eventually see God's hand in everything.

God Bless, Reuben

See you Sunday!

Please join Women with Purpose

Thursday, May 1, 10:00 AM



This will be our last meeting before we take a summer break. We will assemble 14 buckets of outdoor toys for Saranam families at their west side location. We will also be filling reusable water bottles with treats for some elementary school students. We need your help. See you there.

JAM Sessions

(Jesus and Music)



Join us on Friday afternoons at 4:30 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.

New Video Series Beginning Soon

A new 6-week video series by Max Lucado, "What Happens Next, A Traveler's Guide through the End of This Age", will begin on May 21 at 10:30 AM in the church classroom. Discussion will be led by Francie Larson. The class will continue through June 25.



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

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: SPRING BASEBALL OUTING

If you signed up for the baseball outing, don't forget to join us on Sunday May 18 at 1:35 pm for a great time of fun and fellowship as we watch the Isotopes play the Tacoma Rainiers. We have reserved 42 box seats in the upper rows of Section 113 between home plate and third base. Cost is \$17 per seat. The promotion for May 18 will be *Salute to the Services*. If you reserved a seat on the bus, please be at the church by 12 noon.



CHURCH COOKOUT

DATE: Friday May 30, 2025 **TIME:** 5:30 – 7:30 pm

LOCATION: Church Parking Lot



We will provide hotdogs and hamburgers (and buns) with water, lemonade and ice tea. Please bring a dish to share. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for your dish and how you can help with the cookout. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors.

PASS IT ON

'Remember when we "Passed It On"? In last month's issue we listed the amazing ways that our congregation passed on God's love with the \$10 bill they received on Sunday March 2. Listed here are some more of the ways you have shared God's love by Passing it on:

1. Given to grandson & great granddaughter for their mission trip to Kenya.
2. Lunch for a homeless man.
3. To Presbyterian Hospice Daffodil Days.
4. Helped a church member with an out-of-state move.
5. Donated to the VFW.
6. Bought supplies for a friend who keeps lunches in her car for the homeless.
7. Gas money for Pastor Chris Davis' ministry in the Gallup area.
8. Donated can openers for the Pantry.

GRADUATES

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING GRADUATES

GRADUATE	HIGH SCHOOL	PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS
Austin Butcher	Jerome High	Emily Sue Chambers
Gabriel DeSanctis	Cleveland Heights	Dan & Robin Foley
Kayci Hood	West Mesa	Lynn Hood
Miri Elise Kuenzler	Sandia Preparatory	Jane Butel
Josiah Stipek	Rio Rancho	Harry & Frankie Combs

GRADUATE	COLLEGE	PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS
Andrew Butcher	Univ. of Kentucky	Emily Sue Chambers
Cami Knecht	Univ. of New Mexico	Steve & Chrissy Knecht Joey Archuleta
Grace Pacheco	Univ. of Arizona	Robert Pacheco
Jessa Price	Univ. of Hawaii	Earline Price



In honor of their accomplishments, High Desert UMC is presenting each of these graduates with a Bible on Mothers' Day, May 11, as they begin a new journey in their lives. Please join us in congratulating them and their parents and grandparents.

June Fellowship Outing

PLEASE JOIN US ON THURSDAY JUNE 5th at 10:00 AM FOR A TOUR OF THE WHEELS MUSEUM ON THE DOWNTOWN ALBUQUERQUE RAIL YARDS!!!!!! SEE OVER 10,000 RARE TRANSPORTATION ITEMS INCLUDING ANTIQUE AUTOS AND TRUCKS, REAL AIRPLANES IN THE CEILING, TRAIN CARS, A FREE TRAIN RIDE INSIDE AROUND THE EXHIBITS, MODEL TRAIN LAYOUTS OF ALL SCALES RUNNING, A MODEL CAR ROOM, 3 LIBRARIES, LOTS OF INFORMATION, PHOTOS AND TONS OF FUN! 27,000 SQ FT OF SENTIMENT AND EXCITEMENT !!

LEBA FREED, PRESIDENT, WILL GIVE A BRIEF INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION WITH PRIZES AND YOU WILL LEARN HOW ALBUQUERQUE BECAME A MODERN CITY WITH THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD ! \$5 DONATION PLEASE. BUS WILL BE AVAILABLE AND WILL LEAVE THE CHURCH AT 9:15 AM.

AFTER THE MUSEUM WE WILL ENJOY LUNCH AT THE ROUTE 66 DINER !!



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:

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

MONDAY 10:30 AM: Studying *Pentecost*. Meets in the classroom and is led by Marie Donat.

WEDNESDAY 10:30 AM: Currently studying the history & backgrounds of our favorite hymns. Meets in the classroom and is led by Drew Ammons and Bruce Packard.

BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, May 21, AT 10:30 AM, Francie Larson will offer a 6-week video series by Max Lucado.

WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM: Studying *24 Hours That Changed the World* by Adam Hamilton. 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.

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 officials 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.



OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE

Who was Agur in the Old Testament?

Find the answer elsewhere in this issue.

MAY
2025

**HIGH DESERT UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SS = Sunday School MS = MorningStar						
				1 9 AM Fellowship Comm. Mtg. 10 AM Women with Purpose	2 11-2; Food Pantry 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	3
4 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	5 10:30 AM Bible Study	6	7 Office Hrs: 9-12 9:00 AM Mission Comm. Mtg. 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	8 10 AM Emmaus Agape Gr.	9 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	10
11 Mothers' Day 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	12 10:00 FNMK Bagging 10:30 AM Bible Study	13 6:00 PM Ministry Team Mtg	14 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Bible Study 5:30 PM Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	15 1-4 PM Food Pantry	16 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	17 2:00 PM Dayton Molsen funeral, French's on Wyoming
18 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship 1:35 Baseball Outing	19 10:30 AM Bible Study	20 9-12 Food Pantry	21 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 New Video Series begins 5:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice	22	23 4:30 PM Jesus & Music	24
25 9 AM Worship 10 AM SS 10:30 AM MS 11 AM Worship	26 10:30 AM Bible Study	27	28 Office Hrs: 9-12 10:30 Video Series	29	30 4:30 PM Jesus & Music 5:30 Cookout	31

The Church in Worship and Christian Education



The cross on Easter morning



As the sun rises over the Sandias, worshippers sing "Christ the Lord is Risen Today. "



Sunday School children, Talia, Stacia, Clara, and Nadia, enjoy learning about Bible stories surrounding Holy Week



Early risers bundled up against the cold at the Sunrise Service

The Church in Mission



Gallup Mission Team, April, 2025, L-R: Sheela Ammons, Wanda Golsan, Emily Sue Chambers, Lou Williams, Chris Davis, Judy Thomas, and Reuben Thomas



Chris, Wanda, Sheela, and Emily Sue packing sack lunches to be distributed to homeless people on the streets of downtown Gallup



Everett, Director of the Senior Center at Twin Lakes Chapter, with boxes of groceries from High Desert UMC.



A homebound lady enjoying opening her box of groceries



Lester, a gentleman from nearby Acoma Pueblo, helps Bruce and Reuben work on the garden at St. Joseph Mission School



At St. Joseph School, a happy child chats with the Easter Bunny, after receiving his chocolate egg provided by Pauline Walker

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	c/o Faith DeLong, 309 Montclair Dr. NE, Albuquerque 87108	240-0912



Wilson & Trixie Maclay	May 1
Chad & Viola Jackson	May 3
Damon & Melissa Bruce	May 4
Ron & Marlene Fraser	May 8
Mike & Nan Whelan	May 12
Dirk & Marion Sanderson	May 18
Bud & Sandra Keller	May 27
John & Glynda Samford	May 30



May 1	Jody Meyer
May 5	Rogene Schramko
May 8	Olive Gandham
May 8	Viola Jackson
May 10	John Hannahs
May 11	Dodie Rossman
May 12	Brian Kassel
May 14	Joyce Cowles
May 15	Irma Peter
May 16	Faye Lora
May 18	Christine Lucero
May 19	Diane Witt
May 21	Ron Sanders
May 23	Bryce Hendricks
May 25	Carol Smith
May 27	Karen Canada
May 30	Janet Barnard
May 31	Wanda Schierling

ANSWER TO OBSCURE NAMES

IN THE BIBLE:

AGUR WAS AN ORACLE WHO WROTE
PROVERBS 30 COMPARING POVERTY WITH
RICHES. HE ADMONISHES READERS TO
REQUEST FROM GOD ONLY WHAT IS
NEEDED – NO MORE, NO LESS.

**HIGH DESERT UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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

MAY, 2025 Newsletter

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for May, 2025 are:

Friday, May 2, at 11:00 AM

Thursday, May 15, at 1:00 PM

Tuesday, May 20, at 9:00 AM

**May Collection: Boxed Breakfast Cereal -
regular size boxes**

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

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