



# Our Vision

Rio Rancho United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 8, 2019, Vol. 14, Issue 23

“Rio Rancho UMC is a body of Christ led and empowered by the Holy Spirit, meeting the needs of God’s people through open hearts, open minds, and open arms.”



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## Editor's Note

Please furnish me your comments concerning the single service format we have adopted. Your comments will be forwarded to the Worship Committee and the Ad Council for their use. Modifications may be made as we, as a church, adapt to the new arrangements.

Dear Ones,

**C**hristmas is fast approaching, when we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Yeshua or Jesus.

“In Hebrew, the word yasha means to rescue, to help, to defend, to preserve, to make free, to attain victory, to bring to safety, to heal, and to save...one word and the answer to everything” writes Jonathan Cahn in *The Book of Mysteries (Day 18)*. The word yashua comes from the Hebrew word yasha.

God has become our salvation, and it is provided in God’s son, Yeshua, Jesus. During the translation into Greek, the word Yeshua became Iesus and later, when the name was translated into English, it became Jesus. I use the names interchangeably but I am saying the same thing.

This Advent season, as we prepare to welcome the Savior into our midst again, may we focus on Him, not so much the buying of gifts or the decorations, but the One who has the power to save, deliver, heal and make free.

Also, this is the perfect time to invite someone to church, especially someone who might be alone during this holiday season.

*Hozho,*

*Pastor Raquel*

# PRAYER CORNER

## Sunday, December 8, 2019

One of my favorite authors is Philip Yancey. He has written several books on prayer and I recently reopened his book *PRAYER Does It Make Any difference?* In this book he reflects on issues like: does God listen, why should God care about me, if God is all-knowing why should I pray and what should I pray for?

### CONFESSION

One of the points discussed is why we feel unworthy to pray because of sin in our lives. Sin can really disrupt our relationship with God. But, there is a solution. When we confess our sins we open up a direct channel to God and remove the anxiety, guilt, fear and other restrictions to communication.

Ed Dobson is pastor of Calvary Church in Grand Rapids, Mich. When he contracted ALS he fought with confession to set the record right. He knew his time was limited. There were people he had offended, people he needed to ask for forgiveness. So he made a list and started calling.

Dobson's roots were in the fundamentalist movement and right wing politics. His direction was changed when God called him to minister to the local homosexual community. When he learned of his illness he called on his colleagues from the past – Jerry Fallwell, Bob Jones, James Dobson (no relation) – and asked for forgiveness if he had offended them. After that, he prayed with a clear conscience and felt a new freedom in his prayers.

Removing obstructions in our relationship with God allows us to take a giant step toward a new relationship with God. We can have confidence that God will answer our prayer of confession with guaranteed forgiveness. The apostle John wrote, "But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ the Righteous One."

Jaime Cardinal Sin, the archbishop of Manila, tells the story of a woman who attended his weekly audience to inform him that she had received a message from God. He dismissed her several times, but she kept coming back. Finally he said, "We Catholics have strict rules governing visions and messages from God. I need to test your authenticity. I want you to go back and ask God about a personal sin which I confessed in private. If you ask God and he tells you the answer, I'll know your vision is genuine."

The next week she returned and he quizzed her, a bit nervously, "Well, did you ask God about my sin?"

"I did."

"And did God answer?"

"Yes."

"What did He say?"

"God said he couldn't remember."

After you stop smiling, remember this is God's answer to everyone's confessions. He doesn't remember them and we start with a clean slate every time we confess. Advent season is a good time to lay our sins at God's feet and start the new year with a clean soul, body and conscience.

Grace and peace, *Lowell*

### Thanks for Your Faithfulness



Thanks to everyone who has made a commitment to share his or her financial or other gifts with the Body of Christ at Rio Rancho UMC. If you have not been able to return your commitment card, it is not too late. You can put it in the offering plate or turn it in to the church office. If you did not receive a commitment card or have mislaid it, you can pick up a commitment card in the Narthex today. Thanks for your faithfulness to God and Rio Rancho UMC.

# Activities and Events

## WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

12/8	Christmas Caroling
12/15	Happy Birthday Jesus Party
12/22	Potluck & Game Night
12/29	No Youth Group



It's time to order poinsettias for the Christmas season. Order forms are on the welcome table. Be sure and order yours today!

### Christmas Caroling



**TODAY!**  
**Sunday,**  
**December 8<sup>th</sup>,**  
**5 to 7 PM**

We are going to decorate the tables in the fellowship hall as Christmas carols. Then see if we can figure out what carols they are! Plus, sing all our favorite carols. Bring some snacks to share! See you tonight!

### Happy Birthday Jesus Party!



**Sunday,**  
**December 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**4 to 7 PM -**  
**Youth & Families**

We will play some awesome games, have some yummy food, and swap Christmas ornaments! Each person should bring a wrapped Christmas ornament for the exchange (value not to exceed \$7) Parents and siblings are welcome to attend. Invitations have been mailed to all youth families. If you do not receive yours or if you

need additional information, please contact Kim Peterson at 450-9795.

WNO dinners will be on a break starting December 18th. Wednesday Night Out dinners will resume on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, will be

## Game Night

at youth group! If you plan on coming, please bring a potluck dinner item to share!

No Youth group meeting on  
Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Noon Year's Eve Party

**Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 11 AM to 1 PM**  
On Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 11 AM, (in the morning) we will play a few games, have lunch and ring in the new year! This is always a fun event. If you have game ideas/requests, be sure and let Kim know. See you there!



With the change of service times, we are also changing the time for Children’s Sunday School. Children in grades K through 5 will follow this schedule:

The first Sunday of each month, which is communion Sunday, the children will stay in worship service. All other Sunday’s, the children will start in the worship service and then be dismissed to go to Sunday School immediately following the Children’s Message.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kim Peterson at 450-9795.

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### Morning Adult Sunday School Changes Name and Meeting Place

The adult Sunday School class formerly known as the *Wesley Bible Study* has changed its name to the *Early Bird Bible Study*, because class topics are not limited to Wesley Bible studies. After meeting in Fellowship Hall last Sunday, December 1, the class has moved to the Youth Room which provides more flexible seating and is likely to have fewer interruptions. Thanks for your patience with these changes as the class adapts to the new schedule. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact John Hockett.

## December Anniversaries & Birthdays

### Anniversaries

BERDIN, Sam & Dorothy (48years)	12/16
MORYOSEF, Dory (19years)	12/16
LEWIS, Shelley (42years)	12/17
GALLAHER, Walt & Betty (59years)	12/26
WHITE, Billy & Celesta (38years)	12/28

### Birthdays

JACQUEZ, Christian	12/02
ANDERSON, Marcia	12/03
PLATERO, Kimberly	12/03
PURYEAR, Story	12/07
SORENSEN, Dennis	12/07
WISE JR, Tony	12/07
SECHREST, Mamie	12/09
VANDEWIELE, Hailey	12/09
COOLEY, Star	12/10
CHAVEZ, Pat	12/11
GARCIA JR, Felix	12/12
MCCONNELL, Lee	12/13
MOELLER, Jeff	12/14
WHITE, Jessica	12/16
KOFCHUR, Phoenix	12/17
BAIR, Kelli	12/20
ROGGE, Pam	12/21
BAIR, Ken	12/26
SEEFELDT, Susan	12/26
BRUNK, Judy	12/28
HILBORN, Symphany	12/28
LEGGIERO, Theresa	12/30
MCCONNELL, James	12/30
VEACH, Beckie	12/30
HOLLAND (WEST), Megan	12/31
WISEUR-WRIGHT, Kristi	12/31



*Money is not the only commodity that is fun to give. We can give time, we can give our expertise, we can give our love or simply give a smile. What does that cost? The point is, none of us can ever run out of something worthwhile to give.” – Steve Goodier.*