For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age. 

Titus 2:11-12

After our sermon series on prayers God answers ‘yes’ to, I thought these words written by Paul to a young pastor on the island of Crete would be a great reminder of what we need to say ‘no’ to. We live in world where self-control is a great determiner in whether we will be successful in our endeavors, or not.

I confess I succumbed to a temptation last weekend – I bought a pen at the Santa Fe Pen Company. It is red, a fountain pen with a retractable nib and fine point – my idea of the perfect pen. It was too easy – and I didn't run. I am talking to myself because I spent money which could have been used on something else, not selfishly.

Self-control is essential in so many areas of our life – keeping within your budget, staying on task at work, minding your own business and keeping our mouth shut. May we all exercise self-control in our homes, our jobs, our tempers and in the church that God may be glorified and we prove ourselves worthy disciples of Christ our Lord.

Hozho,

Pastor Raquel

We hope you didn’t forget to bring your food items for Souper Bowl Sunday
PRAYER CORNER
February 3, 2019

From Pastor (Janie Janie Noble, former pastor here):

Our friends, Roger and Ashlee visited this weekend with their children, Ben and Ella. Ben is almost four and has attended VBS the past few weeks in Clarendon, where they live. Ben is very excited about God, Jesus, and prayer.

Sunday, in our nursery, Ben got an ‘owie.’ Monica put a band-aid on it.

Later, at our house, the band-aid came off. Frank was getting another one when Ben looked at his ‘owie’ and it was gone! Frank said, Ben I don’t see our ‘owie’ Ben said, very excitedly, ”My Janie prayed and my ‘owie’ is healed!”

Isn’t that a great story? What a witness to the power of prayer.

From Dan Loughran:

About a year ago LT Ryan Brennan was wounded while on patrol. His three companions were killed and he lost both legs and had a severe brain injury. He was in a coma with a 10% chance of ever waking up. On that day Gen. David Petraeus visited and talked to Ryan. Gen. Petraeus had commanded the 101st Airborne in Afghanistan.

As a final effort, Gen Petraeus leaned over Ryan and shouted “Currahee!” Currahee is the motto of the 101st and is Cherokee for ‘Stand Alone!’ As soon as the word was spoken, Lt. Brennan shot up in bed, flailed his stumps and broke out of his coma. Since that time Ryan’s recovery has been remarkable. He runs and walks on his prosthetic legs. He shows no signs of brain trauma.

Juta Beauchamp

Juta is recovering from a fall. She is wearing a boot on her right foot and is getting around with difficulty. Drop her a get well card at Apartment 253 at the Fairwinds, 920 Riverview Drive SE, Rio Rancho 87124.

Recently, he was inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame. Gen. Petraeus was the featured speaker and as he finished talking, he counted down from three and the entire audience shouted “Currahee”. We know that this story is an answer to many persons’ prayers.

This was a news bit on one of the morning network news shows. I don’t know which one, but I think it was CBS. If you wish to see the clip, e-mail me and I will forward it to you - grampa26@earthlink.net.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE LEADERS OF OUR UP-COMING STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM. All of the leaders thank you for your prayer support.

February Anniversaries
And Birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEGGIERO, Bill &amp; Theresa</td>
<td>02/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAYLESS, Liz &amp; Rachel</td>
<td>02/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHNEPPER, Scott &amp; Kim</td>
<td>02/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOEWENSTEIN, Jim &amp; Kelly</td>
<td>02/22</td>
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BIRTHDAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JACKSON, Patrick</td>
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<tr>
<td>LARCOM, Celia</td>
<td>02/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIMPSON, Brittney</td>
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<tr>
<td>STIELOW, Peggy</td>
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<tr>
<td>VEACH, Norm</td>
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<td>SCHNEPPER, Scott</td>
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<td>BARTMESS, Karen</td>
<td>02/09</td>
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<tr>
<td>LITTLEWOOD, Tim</td>
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<td>MILLER, Lydia</td>
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<tr>
<td>REAGIN, Julie</td>
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<td>MORYOSEF, Jamie</td>
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<tr>
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<td>CONNELL, Chuck</td>
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<td>ALLEE, Deanna</td>
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<td>LEWIS, Kandice</td>
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<tr>
<td>BERDIN, Dorothy</td>
<td>02/27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHANDLER, Sue</td>
<td>02/28</td>
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</table>
We will continue to collect used cards to send to St. Jude Children’s Ranch in Nevada. There is a container on the welcome table for you to place your cards in. Thank You!

**Sunday February 17th – Monday, February 18th**

5 PM to 11 AM

We are going to have another Mini-Retreat. We will be spending the night at the church, so everyone needs to bring a sleeping bag and pillow. (There will be a mandatory “sleep” time. If you want to stay up all night – stay at home!) We will start the retreat at 5 PM on Sunday evening with dinner. We will conclude the retreat on Monday at 11 AM. Breakfast will be provided by Kim. As part of our Mini-Retreat, we will develop a theme, choose a skit, write prayers, and responsive readings for our first youth led worship service of 2019, which is on Sunday, March 10th. We will also have some amazingly fun activities! Parts will be assigned during the retreat, so be thinking about what part you want and come prepared with some ideas and be ready to practice. Everyone is encouraged to attend, to build unity within our group and to help with Youth Led Worship.

We will need participants to bring dinner and snack items. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the youth room. Please write your name (if you plan on attending) and the food item you will be bringing, so that we make sure that we get a full menu. (This is kind of like a pot-luck, only we will know what is for dinner!)

**Attention Adults:** Additional adult help would be greatly appreciated. Please let me know if you can help out and what time is good for you.

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The “field” is looking good. We will count up all the food this Sunday and have a report for the next newsletter!

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**Youth Dinner Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>No Youth Group Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/10</td>
<td>Roberts Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/17</td>
<td>Youth Mini-Retreat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/24</td>
<td>York Family</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Chile Cook-Off & Dessert Auction**

Sunday, January 27th

We had a great turnout for our Chili Cook-off and Dessert Auction. There were nine different Chili’s to sample and vote on, and lots of yummy desserts. Congratulations to Peggy Stielow, for having the winning Chili. (This is the second time that Peggy has won the Chili Cook-off, each time with a different recipe!) We collected $721.00 which will be used to help pay for youth trips. Thanks to everyone for their support!

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**WNO Meal Schedule**

2/6     Red Beans & Rice Casserole, Salad, Rolls, Mock Eclair
November 30 marked the end of the 2018 Financial Stewardship Program, which included relevant sermons by Pastor Mull, four videos by members actively associated with four vital RRUMC ministries, and an opportunity to make a financial commitment to support the ministries and operation of Rio Rancho United Methodist Church in 2019.

Although November 30 was considered to be the end of the program, members and friends of Rio Rancho United Methodist Church were encouraged to submit their commitment cards before the end of December. This would enable the Finance Committee to enter 2019 with an income projection that would allow for construction of a realistic 2019 budget. Such was the case, and with a most encouraging response. The following is a very brief summary of the results together with a comparison to the figures from the 2018 program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commitments</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Amount</td>
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<td>$156,991</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In truth, there is no deadline on a commitment to financially support the church as a component of one’s overall Christian discipleship. Financial resources are just one component of our congregation’s ability to serve the Lord in Rio Rancho and beyond. The Stewardship Program Team, and Finance Committee, greatly appreciates the prayers and decisions that these commitments represent.

From the Stewardship Program Team

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**Walk to Emmaus**

**A Journey with Christ**

*While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them.* - Luke 24:15

The walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God’s grace and love is revealed to you through other believers.

The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with the prayerful discernment and invitation from a sponsor. After one accepts this invitation they complete an application. The Emmaus leaders prayerfully consider each applicant and in God’s time, the person is invited to attend a three-day experience of New Testament Christianity as a lifestyle.

Following the three-day experience, participants are joined in small groups to support each other in their ongoing walk with Christ.

Through the formational process of accountable discipleship in small groups and participation in the Emmaus community, each participant’s individual gifts and servant-leadership skills are developed for use in the local church and its mission. Participants are encouraged to find ways to live out their individual call to discipleship in their home, church, and community.

The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip the local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work. Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others.

For questions you can talk to Pastor Raquel Mull, Priscilla Brigham, John Hockert, Kim Peterson.

**Men’s Walk will take place on May 2-5 (Thursday evening-Sunday)**

**Women’s Walk will take place on September 19-22 (Thursday evening-Sunday)**

Applications for each walk are available in the Church Office.
Famous Quotations

You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore.

Cristopher Columbus

Have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never hardens, and a touch that never hurts.

Charles Dickens

You cannot shake hands with a closed fist.

Indira Gandhi

To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all.

Oscar Wilde

A good laugh and a long sleep are the best cures in a doctor’s book.

Irish Proverb

Those who are quite satisfied sit still and do nothing; those who are not quite satisfied are the sole benefactors of the world.

Walter Savage Landor

New Wednesday Night Study

This Wednesday, February 6, we will begin a new video study entitled “More than Conquerors: A Call to Radical Discipleship.” See the author, Simon Guillebaud, travel through some of the most dangerous conflict zones on earth to take faith out of the hypothetical and exercise it in the context of the complex, the everyday, the impossible. Follow along and be challenged beyond contemporary Christianity to become “more than a conqueror.” There is no study book or homework required. The study and the discussion will start at 6:10 p.m. after the Wednesday Night Out meal and finish in time for choir practice.

The Money Quote

“A checkbook is a theological document; it will tell you who and what you worship.”

--- Billy Graham

Rio Rancho United Methodist Church Leaders

David Stielow – Chair of Administrative Council
Dan Hilborn – Current Chair of Trustees
Dan Loughran – Finance Secretary
John Hockert – Chair of Finance
Michael Parrish – Treasurer
Peggy Stielow – Chair of SPRC
Walt Gallaher – Chair of Communications
Betty Gallaher – Chair of Congregational Care
Greg Anderson – Chair of Missions and Outreach
Priscilla Brigham – Chair of Free Store
Joseph Ulibarri – Chair of Music
Lowell Kohlrust – Chair of Prayer Team
Gordon Moore – Chair of Technical Ministries
Kim Peterson – Director of Education/Chair of Women’s Committee
Kristine Sechrest – Director of Preschool
Kathy McConnell – Acting Chair of Worship
Cindy Feldman – Chair of Visitation Team
Sallye Olmo
Only one of the main Way Forward plans that seek to define the future of LGBTQ people in The United Methodist Church follows that admonition by church founder John Wesley, according to the United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus.

The Simple Plan, offered by the caucus as an alternative to the One Church, Connectional Conference, Traditional and Modified Traditional plans, is an underdog because it is not on the list suggested by the Council of Bishops in May.

“We saw that all the plans proposed by the Commission on a Way Forward … still deemed LGBTQI individuals and our families and our communities as expendable,” says the Rev. Alex da Silva Souto, an author of the Simple Plan and a New York Conference delegate to the special 2019 General Conference Feb. 23-26 in St. Louis. “So we had to move forward with a proposal that would reduce the harm as best as we can.”

In contrast, the Simple Plan harms no one, da Silva Souto says. It calls for the elimination of all language in the denomination’s Social Principles and Book of Discipline that limits the role of homosexual people in the church.

“It allows for local congregations and conferences to continue with their own process of discernment without forcing them at a particular pace or a particular direction,” da Silva Souto says.

The Simple Plan is easier to implement than the other plans because it does not require a gauntlet of constitutional amendments or restructuring of the denomination.

“Why not simply remove what’s been causing harm, without proposals of restructuring as well?” da Silva Souto says. “We may not withstand an overhaul and restructuring of how we operate as a connection.”

Karen G. Prudente, a member of Christ Church United Methodist in New York City and a delegate to the special conference, notes that similar arguments have been resolved in the church over the years.

“We did it with HIV/AIDS,” she says. “We’ve done it with women. We’ve done it on race.

“This is just another issue.”

Removing the discriminatory language from the Book of Discipline and Social Principles would open up opportunities for service and possibly grow the church, supporters say.

“We’re here to offer ourselves and our lives,” Prudente says. “We want to serve God and continue to offer our best and be recognized as children of God.”

United Methodists for the Simple Plan, a collective of United Methodists who support the plan, say in a statement that “institutionalized discrimination against LGBTQIA+ Christians has wrought division and harm, yet queer persons have continued to bear forth the fruits of the Spirit in their lives and in their loving.”

The lead writer of the statement is the Rev. Jay Williams, lead pastor of Union United Methodist Church in Boston.

“We implore our leaders to awaken their consciences to the brutal consequences of granting permission for discrimination justified by blasphemous faith claims about inherent human superiority.”

In 1972, United Methodists added the statement to its Social Principles saying, “We do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.”

“The Simple Plan is a continuation of a prayer for healing that started 46 years ago,” says da Silva Souto. “We are praying that this is the time. We are not giving up. The Holy Spirit has brought us to this point, and the Holy Spirit will not abandon us.”