



Our Vision

Rio Rancho United Methodist Church

Sunday, March 15, 2020, Vol. 15, Issue 4



“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.”

Dear Ones,

In this time when many are frightened by the COVID-19 virus, it is comforting to remember that our fate is in the hands of a loving God. An acquaintance came up with the acronym, CORONA (Christ, Only, Rules Over Natural Adversity) to remind us of God’s loving sovereignty. We recognize the power of worship to provide hope, comfort, and joy in the midst of chaos and anxiety. Therefore, we will be continuing our worship service at its regular time. However, we also want to do everything we can to prevent the spread of disease, so we are making some changes.

- **First, if you or anyone in your household is not feeling well, please do not come to church;** or if you feel vulnerable or uncomfortable in a gathering of a number of people. Please e-mail the church office (rioranchoumc@gmail.com) so our prayer team can include you in our prayers.
- **Second, we will be wiping down the pews for cleanliness. However, please sit with your family at least six feet away from others.** Infected people can cough or sneeze and generate respiratory droplets, which then land on nearby surfaces. These droplets do not travel more than six feet unless the person coughs or sneezes at you.
- **Third, do not touch door handles or your face unnecessarily. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizer.** People with the viruses on their hands can deposit the viruses onto a door handle when they open the door. These viruses can stay alive on surfaces for at least several hours, so people who touch a surface with the viruses on it and then touch their nose or eyes can become infected.
- **Fourth, Children’s Sunday school is cancelled until further notice.** Younger children are constantly touching each other, and our teachers can’t control that. If they spread infection among themselves, they can bring it home to their parents and grandparents. We also don’t want to risk infecting their teachers.
- **Fifth, our music teams will be on hiatus until further notice.** Singing generates respiratory droplets and having the choir sing in close together rows creates a medium-to-risk of transmission. It is especially important to protect our senior choir members since the infection is more severe among seniors.
- **Sixth, small groups will be suspended until further notice, including Wednesday Night Out.**

Pastor Raquel

Storehouse West E-Mail

Dear Rio Rancho Methodist Church Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Storehouse West, we thank you and your congregation for your very generous gifts and donations in 2019 for a total of:

\$375.15 as part of \$2,896.48 received from area churches

and

1401 pounds of food as part of 16,253 pounds of food from 17 area churches

In the calendar year 2019 we distributed over 395,000 quality meals to almost 6,800 households representing 17,993 individuals. This is a 6% increase over 2018 totals. Our distribution includes 5,194 seniors and 5,029 children. Food was delivered to schools, senior living facilities, senior centers, and senior citizens living on pueblos. Without your support, and that of others, many of our fellow citizens who are food-insecure would not have had a reliable food source; food security is a basic foundation for daily work and school success.

/S/

Jim Payne
Executive Director
Storehouse West
1030 F Veranda Dr
Rio Rancho, NM 87124
505-892-2077

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Anniversaries

RHODES, Del	03/14
VEACH, Norm	03/10
VEACH, Rebecca (Beckie)	03/24
DONAT, Marie	03/25

Birthdays

KOHLRUST, Jan	03/01
BEGLEY, Ivan	03/03
BENSON, James	03/04
COLSON, Jeanine	03/07
ELLIOTT, Michael	03/08
BAIR, Reed	03/09
O'SICKEY, Chris	03/09
WISEUR, Bryce	03/10
RABORN, Marcy	03/13
KISSINGER, Frances (Fran)	03/18
KOFCHUR, Anastazia	03/23
MCGREGOR, Roland	03/26
SECHREST, Kristine	03/26
COOLEY, Nancy	03/29
MOELLER, Melodee A (Melodee)	03/31

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

Anniversaries

MCCONNELL, Lee & Kathy	04/12
WRIGHT, Glenn & Kristi Viseur-Wright	04/16

Birthdays

MCKINLEY, Austin	04/05
STUART, Alicia	04/05
RABORN, Jim	04/09
WHITE, Billy	04/09
EKEROTH, Vangie	04/11
LOEWENSTEIN, Jim	04/11
SIMMONS, Jennifer	04/11
HOLDER, Evonne	04/14
COTTON, Ed	04/16
MORRIS, Shirley	04/18
SALAZ, Hillary	04/18
GREASER, Walter	04/19
HOLLAND, Ava	04/19
SALAZ, Hillary	04/19
GREASER, Tanya	04/20

JOHNSON, (Peggy)	04/21
HILBORN, Dan	04/22
HAUCK, Michael	04/23
SALAZ, Eugene	04/23
SELOVER, Glen	04/23
SELOVER, Wes	04/23
STEUCK, Michael	04/23
STIELOW, Dave	04/23
MAIETTA, Elena	04/24
GALLAHER, Walt	04/26
STUART, Scott	04/26
SMILEY, Madonna	04/27
ANDERSON, (Greg)	04/30

Dear Ones,

Last Sunday I reminded people Daylight Savings Time is not found in the Bible – now Solomon asserts there is a time to be born and a time to die; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to embrace and a time to refrain; a time to be silent and a time to speak a time for everything and every activity under heaven but Daylight Savings Time is not specifically mentioned (Ecclesiastes 3:2, 4, 5, 7, 1). Nor is Lent, yet many denominations practice a season of Lent.

Lent is the season of prayer and fasting preceding the joyous festivity of Resurrection Day. Lent is a church institution, a practice devised to help believers prepare for the resurrection of the spirit and the mind from the darkness of its sins, doubts and false belief into the light of understanding. It is a hope for the cleansing and disciplining of both mind and body for the teachings, love and forgiveness Christ offers us.

Lent is typically associated with giving something up, a kind of reminder of what Christ gave up for us. But it can also mean a taking on – taking on a spirit of humility, a spirit of kindness and patience; you know – the traits Christ is known for. As we continue through this season of Lent, I pray your words, actions and thoughts will be as Christ's as we anticipate his rising from the dead!

Hozho,

Pastor Raquel

Hi all,

The current pandemic is changing our routines at this time.

The NM Department of Health has banned gatherings of 100+ (with a few exceptions, including places of worship). Epidemiologists have warned us to take precautions especially for those who are 60 years and older. The Public Education Department has cancelled schools for the next three weeks. The Archdiocese of Santa Fe and world-wide Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints have closed their doors.

In light of this, Hailey and I will be taking "sick leave" so that we do not risk infecting those who are most vulnerable. We work in the public schools, and have been around students who have been around others exposed to the coronavirus.

We are not currently sick; however, we are taking precautions as advised by health officials.

Choir and praise team are officially cancelled in the meantime. I strongly encourage you all to take care of yourselves. I hope you are able to make the best decisions for your families, especially if you are in a caretaking position.

Take care,

The Music Program

The Money Quote

"We were not born the same and we are all not born with the same abilities and capabilities, but no matter what seed God has given to us, be it small or big, He expects a good returns from us in the end and we must endeavor to be good stewards and managers of our abilities and capabilities regardless of where we live and the challenges we face!" — Ernest Agyemang Yeboah, **Religion, Philosophy and Life**

CORONAVIRUS AND YOUR CHURCH

By Thom S. Rainer

At the time of this article, we really have no idea if coronavirus will become a pandemic or if we have it under control. Though I tend to be optimistic about it, there are certainly perspectives on both sides of this issue.

You who are leaders in churches, though, need to begin thinking about how your church should respond right now rather than later. By the way, I am grateful to the community of [Church Answers](#). Many in our community are having very helpful conversations about this issue even as I write this article.

Though my suggestions are not comprehensive, I do think they provide solid guidelines to follow at this very moment.

Focus on prayer instead of panic. Remind your congregation that God is in control. Encourage them to pray for the cessation of the disease. Ask them to pray for the victims and their families. Encourage them to pray for the gospel to go forth boldly in the midst of this trial.

Develop a communication plan. For example, if someone in your church or community is stricken with coronavirus, be prepared to respond. Will you have services or not? If you do not have services, how long will this period be? How can people remain connected to your church?

Be prepared to offer digital worship services and Bible studies. If your church does not offer the streaming of services on the church website, Facebook live, or some other means, now is the time to move in that direction. Make certain you can have digital services even if you can't gather for a season.

Aggressively encourage people to use digital giving. If you can't gather and pass the offering plate or bucket, you need to be prepared to offer mechanisms for your members to give. You should be making this move regardless of coronavirus. It certainly helps giving when attendance is lower.

Develop a plan to help church members and community members. If the situation does worsen, there will be people in your area in need of help and in need of basic supplies. How will your church respond?

Consider current church practices that might be harmful for spreading coronavirus or other diseases. Though my bias against it is obvious, now is the time to consider bringing the traditional "meet and greet" to an end. In some of your churches, you might consider other changes. I was in a church a few years ago that shared a common cup. No way.

I remain more hopeful than panicked about coronavirus. Still, there is no reason for churches to be unprepared. Prepare for the worst and pray for the best.