



Our Vision

Rio Rancho United Methodist Church

“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.”

January 21, 2018 Volume 13, issue 2



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Editor’s Note

This week we will have one-service at 10:00 am. The Chile Cook-off and desert auction will follow this service in Fellowship Hall. Please stay for this Annual Event (and perhaps warm your tummy).

Finishing the Hat

Last year I traveled to Chicago and saw the masterpiece "Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jette." The artist, Georges Seurat, captured a beautiful scene utilizing a technique known as pointillism. Each dot contributes to the complete work of art. To leave anything out is to change the original intention of the painter. Everything must be included; each dot, each stroke, every speck of color, adding to the rich contextual landscape that makes the picture amazing. The whole work depends on every unique aspect of its parts.

We are like Seurat's painting. The canvases of our lives weave together rich colors that can only be understood when seen as a full painting. Every dot removed hides a special part of the details that define our truest selves. To take away from the masterpiece of our lives, is to hide the rich gifts with which God blesses us.

Hear the good news, God calls us out of the shadows and into the light. The world needs to see the real you, the one who continuously overcomes the trials of the darkness. Step into the hope of the risen Christ, and allow God to shine in His greatest work, for you are the Creator's masterpiece. Each color, each dot, each stroke of the Master's hand brings an assurance of hope and promise.

Unlike the Seurat painting, we are never a finished work of art. God continues to shape us and mold us. "What we are has not yet fully been revealed" (1 Jn 3:2). Our existence is forged within the great mystery of the Holy Spirit.

Praise be to our Creator, who fashions us in holy likeness. We give thanks to the One, who creates every little dot, every color, every stroke of the heavenly brush to design each of us in our unique displays of hues and passions. May we continue to grow in strength and understanding that we are loved beyond anything we can ever understand. May we remember that we are the Father's greatest works of art.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Joe

Prayer Corner

Sunday, January 21, 2018

A Prayer to Offer

Taken from My *Winning Words Devotional*

Gracious God, thank you for the people you have placed in my life who pray for me daily; men and women who hold me up before you, asking that you bless and keep me, protect and provide for me. Through your response to their faithful prayers, my life is filled with good things. Forgive me for the times I fail to recognize the power of prayer—and the powerful prayers responsible for the things I claim to have done in my own strength and power. I take so very much in this life for granted—and the people who pray for me are near the top of that list! Thank you for Jesus, now seated at your right hand, interceding for me. And for your Holy Spirit, living in me, giving me words to pray—and even praying for me when words fail me. Help me, merciful Father, to be faithful in my prayer ministry for others who, like me, do not give thanks to those who pray for them. And, most of all, Lord, allow me to see with new eyes the benefits of a right relationship with you that put me in a position to ask and receive blessing upon blessing from your benevolent hand. Amen.

Grace & Peace,
Judy Brunk

January Anniversaries And Birthdays

Anniversaries

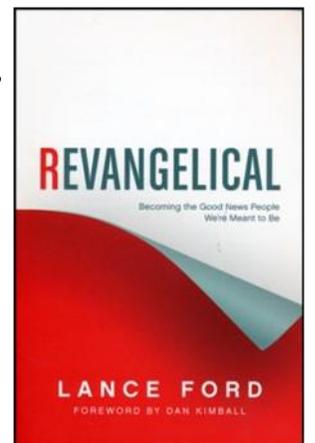
BEGLEY, Ivan & Gisela 01/06
BRUNK, Judy 01/29

Birthdays

PONTSLER, Gary 01/02
PARRISH, Michael 01/03
ROGGE, Jim 01/03
CASKEY, Larry 01/04
ELLIOTT, Ken 01/06
ROOT, Donna 01/06
PETERSON, Robert 01/08
SHARKEY, Jeri 01/09
BAYLESS, Rachel 01/14
BALTZ, Danielle 01/15
MORYOSEF, Albert 01/16
MACDONALD, Caeleb 01/18
GALLAHER, Betty 01/20
MORITOMO, Reagan 01/22
MACDONALD, Joe 01/23
SHARKEY, John 01/24
CUPRYK, Timothy 01/25
BENSON, Maria 01/26
JOHNSON-CONNELL, Charlotte 01/27
YEAGER, Rachael 01/27
VISEUR, Emma 01/31

New Sunday Morning Study – Revangelical

On Sunday, January 28, we will begin a study based on the book, *Revangelical*, a call to be re-evangelized—to realign our hearts with the things that most concerned Jesus. This study is for you, if you want to get back to the gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven and to joyfully live that gospel in such a way that the surrounding culture will have no choice but to recognize you as a Good News person. Come check this out at 9:45 am on Sunday, January 28 in the Music Room. **See John Hockert for a copy of the study book.**



Activities and Events

Youth Dinner Schedule

- 1/21 Special Event – No Dinner
- 1/28 Kofchur Family
- 2/4 Super Bowl Sunday – No Youth



Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 13th

The youth will be serving a delicious dinner of pancakes, sausage, applesauce, juice and coffee on Tuesday, February 13th, from 5 to 7:00 PM. This will be a traditional "all you can eat" Fat Tuesday meal. A love offering is taken. All proceeds help fund youth retreats and mission trips.



Please join us TODAY after worship in the fellowship hall for our 4th Annual Chile/Salsa Cook-off and Dessert Auction!

Youth: remember we will be going to a movie today instead of having our regular youth group time. If you did not get the info for the movie, please contact Kim at 450-9795.



Souper Bowl of Caring

The Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of

those without even a bowl of soup to eat."

Since 1990, young people have been leading the charge and inspiring others to collect dollars and food around the time of the Big Game. These groups then give 100% of their donations to local charities. This year the youth group is asking our Church family to build a "Pyramid of Food" on our field in the Narthex. In addition, every- one can guess how many total items they think we will collect, and write the guess on one of the posters on the sanctuary doors. We will al- so take a monetary collection in our soup pots on Sunday, February 4th. Every non-perishable food item and dollar donated here at RRUMC goes to Storehouse West, Rio Rancho UMC Youth Group's 2018 Souper Bowl of Caring charity of choice.

Christening



Pastor Joe Christening
Sage O'Sickey

Children's Sunday School

Sunday School meets 9:45 - 10:45.

Kindergarten through 5th grade

Teachers: Mandi O'Sickey, Nicole Holland,
and Cindy Douglas

The picture on the right is of Sunday School. This was a lesson called God Has A Plan For Joseph which talked about God has a big picture through our ups and downs in life. This was when Joseph was put in jail for something he didn't do but, because he believed in God, things got better for him.



Children's Church

Children's Church meets during second service
11:00 - 12:00

Students go with the teachers after the Children's message and return to their parents during communion.

Kindergarten through 5th grade are welcomed.

Leaders are Mandi O'Sickey and
Cindy Douglas

Helpers have been Julie Reagin and Peggy Stielow

We also have one teenager help us every week.

Both sessions are a study of the Bible in One Year.

Please come join us for both Sunday School and Children's Church to get the full understanding of each lesson.

Anyone interested in teaching a week or two please contact: Mandi O'Sickey 505 604-7096 or Cindy Douglas 505-417-1349.



Putting a floor puzzle together had its ups and downs, but in the end we had the completed picture.