



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.”



1652 Abrazo Road NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124 (505) 892-0404
rioranchoumc@gmail.com.....rrumc.net

Worship Service – 10 AM Sunday Morning

To view our worship service online, go to www.rrumc.net and click on the YouTube link.

IN THIS ISSUE – MARCH 2021

Thanksgiving and Tribute	Pg. 2
Thank You’s & Celebrations	Pg. 3
Monthly Mission Emphasis	Pg. 4
Shop Online	Pg. 4.
Easter Week Services	Pg. 5
Book Club, Food, Welcome Bags	Pg. 5
Directory, Facebook & Instagram	Pg. 5
Words of Wisdom	Pg. 6
Mail/E-mail, Daily Prayer	Pg. 6

RIO RANCHO UMC STAFF

- Rev. Raquel Mull, Pastor
- Rachel Balliett, Administrative Assistant
- Kim Peterson, Director of Christian Education and Youth
- Monica Alliman, Nursery Director
- Jamie Moryosef, Nursery Attendant
- Alfredo Beltran, Music Director
- Raul Manjarrez, Accompanist
- Kristine Sechrest, Preschool Director
- Jessica Holguin, Preschool Teacher

Dear Ones,

I think I see the light at the end of the tunnel!! Many in the congregation have been vaccinated and hints of spring are all around us.

In this Lenten season, may we pause to reflect, not only our humanness and fragilities, but on the grace and forgiveness given if we but ask. So why do we question it?

Cake mixes have been around since the 1930’s – they were developed to use up extra molasses. It wasn’t until the 1940’s they became more popular and after the second world war became a staple for many families.

Many believed cake mixes became more popular when consumers had to add eggs with the water, so they felt more ‘involved’ in the process. Duncan Hines and General Mills kept that strategy, even when sales diminished. So, they found a new way to let the baker be more integral in the creativity process – through icing! Now, bakers could start with a cake mix and use the icing to create football fields, elaborate wedding cakes, or 3 ring circuses.

Too often we feel we need to add to something to make it better; to feel like we have made a difference through our contributions. God’s forgiveness doesn’t require anything extra but our recognition, we need forgiveness. The things we really need – air, to love and be loved, to believe God has a plan for our lives – are never bought and can never be achieved by straining after them. So, as we move toward Resurrection Day, open your heart, and receive God’s forgiveness as a gift, freely given – the gift Yeshua died to give us.

Please continue to pray for our church and our nation, Hozho, Raquel



Sent from a RRUMC member, a fitting tribute, and wonderful words to ponder...

Thanksgiving and Tribute

Since we live in a service economy, we have many people who serve us that deserve recognition in our Covid world: Beyond the doctors and nurses and health workers, and besides our first responders and essential workers, I want to thank the ordinary folks who serve daily for less pay or reduced hours or longer days for the same pay. I think of the cooks in the kitchen and the waitresses who bring our food to the curb, the postal workers who are delivering 7 days a week, the men who pick up our trash weekly, the grocery shelf stockers and baggers (my granddaughter is one of them), the salon workers who must deal with periodic shutdowns, the salespeople who depended on customers who didn't come, and finally the small business owners who had to close their shops and lost the business they built. These are the unsung heroes who deserve their pictures on the cover of TIME and the gratitude of everyone whose life they touched.

My gratefulness goes to those in the arts community who were the first to respond to the public fear of a deadly disease. Singers, dancers, Broadway choruses, even the tenor singing from his 4th floor window, put their talents online to raise our spirits. Local newspapers featured artworks, paintings, and sculptures. Online talent, some of it professional and some of it new and original, became available. These folks brought us music and entertainment to ease our anxiety, and I appreciate their contribution.

I thank those who flooded my email with jokes, cartoons, and endless humor. Covid jokes, innovative mask designs, the trials of homeschooling, 24-hour pajama wear, all were designed to keep us laughing. And they did. Americans historically meet tough times with humor, and I am proud of that.

A tribute to the churches which went online when forced to close. Rio Rancho Methodist church missed only one Sunday, then a few stalwart members and the pastor introduced our online service the next week. We worshiped that way for six months before opening the sanctuary again, observing all the Covid rules. The service is recorded and repeated online in the afternoon and for later viewings. I applaud and appreciate their faithful continuing efforts.

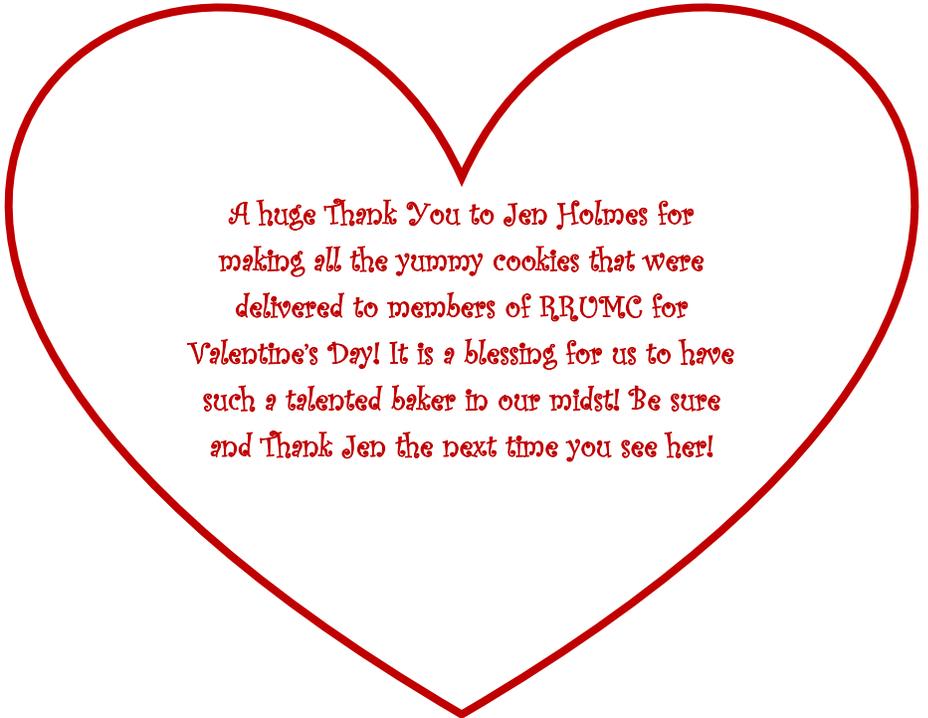
A final tribute to the American Spirit. You cannot kill it. It exists in every free and independent citizen. Given any calamity or disaster, war, or plague, it will rise in the hearts of every American. We are strong, we love our country, and we honor our flag. We will survive.

Benediction

I do not know what the New Year will bring, but I pray that it will be better than this one. In faith, I do know this: God in His heavens is Sovereign and His love, truth, and justice will prevail.



On February 5th, we had another successful, albeit very small, paint class. Great pictures everyone! Two more paint nights have been added to the calendar. Friday, April 16th from 6 to 8 PM, we will be painting a sunflower. Friday, May 14th, from 6 to 8 PM, we will be painting a flag. The cost for each class is \$5.00 per person and includes a light supper. Reservations must be made by contacting Kim Peterson at 450-9795 or kimpeterson1007@gmail.com. Watch for examples of the paintings to be posted on the bulletin board.



A huge Thank You to Jen Holmes for making all the yummy cookies that were delivered to members of RRUMC for Valentine's Day! It is a blessing for us to have such a talented baker in our midst! Be sure and Thank Jen the next time you see her!



Our gratitude to the following very hard-working volunteers who installed a new floor in the Preschool/Nursery: Anthony Holmes, Dave Stielow, Ruth Kristof, Billy White, and Wally & Cindy Feldman. The floor looks great and will be much easier to keep clean!

Help Darla celebrate Roland!

Roland McGregor will be celebrating his 80th Birthday on March 26th. With gathering restrictions still in place, a big bash is out of the question, so Darla is hosting a "card" party. Send cards addressed to:

Darla McGregor
10801 Lagrima de Oro Rd. NE, Apt. 853
Albuquerque, NM 87111



Monthly Mission Emphasis

The Bible is clear. Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the laws of Christ." Jesus says it this way, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 19:19

January: For Souper Bowl of Caring, we collected 996 pounds of non-perishable food and an adjusted total of \$1703.00 dollars in cash donations for Storehouse West.

February: For Haven House we collected a bin full of supplies (toilet paper, paper towels, soap, etc.), and a total of \$556.90 in cash donations.

March: As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, UMCOR assists churches to become involved globally. The United Methodist Churches' special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways. Make checks payable to RRUMC with a notation for UMCOR.

April: When you give to Native American Ministries, you equip seminary students who honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries and empower congregations to find culturally appropriate ways to minister to their communities.

Support Rio Rancho UMC when you shop online!



Shopping online through the iGive.com website generates donations for Rio Rancho UMC at no cost to you. The process is simple. First, register as a member at the iGive.com website, by filling out the form, and then select Rio Rancho UMC as the

cause of your choice. Second, search for your favorite store and click the link on the iGive.com website to get to your favorite store. (Over 1,500 of the best online stores participate in this program.) Shop as you normally would. Your purchases automatically generate donations for our church at no cost to you. The iGive.com website never has access to any of your payment information. (You can find more detailed information by clicking on the *How iGive Works* link at the bottom of the web page.) You can make this even simpler with the iGive app (<https://www.igive.com/app>) or browser button (<https://www.igive.com/button>). If you have any questions, contact John Hockert, the Financial Secretary, at j.hockert@att.net or 505-898-6813.



When ordering through Amazon, you can generate donations for Rio Rancho UMC at no extra cost to you. Simply start your shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/85-0290482 to confirm "Rio Rancho United Methodist Church" as your charity of choice, and AmazonSmile will donate a portion of your eligible purchase price to our organization.

God looks at the heart, not the hand—the giver, not the gift.



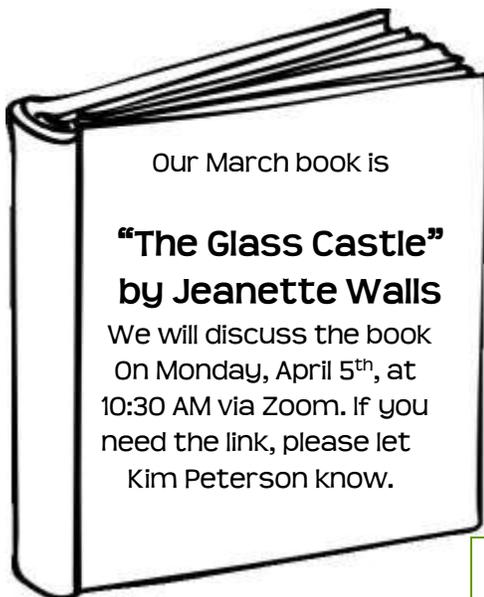
Easter Week Services

Palm Sunday: Join us at 10 AM, Sunday, March 28th, as several of Jesus' disciples share their story and question their integrity.

Good Friday: If Easter makes you want to sing and jump for joy, then Good Friday should make you want to crawl into a corner and weep. We can't truly celebrate the resurrection of our Savior if we don't fully remember his death. The Service of Darkness is a powerful reminder of Good Friday. We hope you will join us for this very moving worship experience, Friday, April 2nd at 7 PM.

Resurrection Sunday: On Resurrection Day, we conclude our sermon series "Places of the Passion" by visiting "The Garden Tomb". Join us at 10 AM on Sunday, April 4th, as we marvel with the women at the garden tomb - now empty - and hear the good news from the angel: "He has risen, just as he said," All fear is gone because Jesus is alive, and all faith is found in his words of comfort and peace.

Alleluia!
He
Is
Risen!



Our March book is

"The Glass Castle" by Jeanette Walls

We will discuss the book
On Monday, April 5th, at
10:30 AM via Zoom. If you
need the link, please let
Kim Peterson know.



Our new pictorial church directory should be ready by the end of March! You will be able to pick up a copy in the Narthex or contact the Church office if you would like us to mail a copy to you.

Did you know that you can
follow RRUMC on
Facebook and Instagram?
Check it out and stay
informed!

There is food available in the
front South hall for anyone who
is in need. Please call the
Church to make sure someone
is in the office, before coming
to pick up food.



The Church office has "Welcome" bags to hand out to new neighbors! If someone new has moved into your neighborhood, please consider taking them a "Welcome" bag. Inside we have a couple of small gifts and some great information about Rio Rancho and our Church. This is a great way to meet your neighbors!

Rio Rancho UMC
1652 Abrazo Road NE
Rio Rancho, New Mexico 87124

"Imagine what our real neighborhoods would be like if each of us offered, as a matter of course, just one kind word to another person." Fred Rogers

Currently, we are mailing and e-mailing the newsletter. If you are not receiving the newsletter via e-mail, please let the office know, and make sure we have your current contact information. Also, if you only want us to e-mail you a copy, please let the Church office know. Thank You!

Join us in prayer at 4:52 each afternoon.

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake. May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable. May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent. May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options. May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no safe place to go. May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all. May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home. As fear and anger grips our country, let us choose love. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Lord God when we give in to fear, anger, or selfishness, have mercy upon us, bring us to repentance and forgive and heal us. **Amen.**

