



# 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.”



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**Worship Service – 10 AM Sunday Morning**

To view our worship service online, go to [www.rrumc.net](http://www.rrumc.net) and click on the YouTube link.

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## 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  
 Kristine Sechrest, Preschool Director  
 Jessica Holguin, Preschool Teacher

## A Message from Pastor Raquel

Dear Ones,

Can you believe it is already the middle of November? I am shocked and I blame COVID-19 - with our activity restricted, it is difficult to lose track of time on a weekly basis much less a monthly. Yet, we are on the doorstep of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Our sign on the road reads, “Count your blessings.” The first Thanksgiving was celebrated 399 years ago as the settlers of Plymouth came together with their Native American neighbors to share the autumn harvest and give thanks for their blessings of the past year. Some of us will be celebrating close to home and not traveling to be with family because of COVID-19. Even in the midst of this pandemic, we have much to be thankful for, so make time to remind yourself of your blessings.

Psalm 100 is a wonderful place to begin. Read this short Psalm and, as you finish a sentence or a verse, stop and turn your thoughts into a prayer. Bring the ideas or truths of the passage into a conversation with God. We can draw closer to God this season by thanking God for all we have, all we want for our church, family and nation. May your Thanksgiving be blessed.

Hozho,

Raquel

### Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

## Women's Book Club

We are currently reading "The Storyteller" by Jodi Picoult. We will have a Zoom discussion on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 AM. Our December book selection is "Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm In a Chaotic World" by Max Lucado, with discussion on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 AM, via Zoom. If you would like the link to join in the book discussions, please let Kim Peterson know. She can be reached at [kimpeterson1007@gmail.com](mailto:kimpeterson1007@gmail.com), or by phone or text at 450-9795.



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 outreach opportunity!

If you are willing to help decorate our Church for the Christmas Season, contact Kim at 450-9795, and let her know what time you can help on November 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!

## Church Office Hours for November and December:

Staffed Monday through Thursday 10 AM to 2 PM

Church Office Closed: November 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving

And: December 24<sup>th</sup> through January 4<sup>th</sup> for Christmas and New Years

Since we are unable to have Children's Church and Sunday school for children and youth at this time, we want to do something different than we have done in the past for advent. We will be delivering supplies to make an Advent Wreath to each Church family with children and youth. In addition, we will include a devotional booklet to be used each day your family lights the advent candles. These will be simple wreaths, but we hope each family can continue or start a new tradition of lighting advent candles together during the Christmas season. The first Sunday of

### Advent wreath



Advent is November 29<sup>th</sup>. We will be delivering the supplies between November 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, so the wreaths can be put together in time for the start of Advent. It would also be great fun if others in our congregation could "see" what the advent wreaths look like, so when your family puts them together, please take pictures and share them with us. Pictures can be sent via text to 450-9795 or e-mailed to [kimpeterson1007@gmail.com](mailto:kimpeterson1007@gmail.com) and we



will make sure and share them with our church family! Additional devotional booklets will be available in the Narthex at Church for anyone who would like one.

For over 48 years, PB&J has been helping at-risk children grow and develop to their full potential in nurturing families within a supportive community.

This is a special time of year when PB&J reaches out to the community to provide Christmas gifts and essentials such as bedding and cleaning supplies to families with limited resources and extensive needs.

To participate this year, instead of looking through and signing our PB&J Family's Christmas Wish List binders at church, please look through this list and email Cara at [caramoore1@msn.com](mailto:caramoore1@msn.com) with the gift you'd like to purchase. (Please email before purchasing the gift, so we don't get duplicates!) If you would like to give a gift for the family but prefer not to shop, please donate the money for the gift to RRUMC with a notation that it is for PB&J. We will shop for your gift and bring it to church.

Please bring your gift to church by Sunday, December 6th. PB&J teachers will wrap the gifts and distribute them to our family soon after that. "What we do today affects generations to come."

### Our PB&J Family's Christmas Wish List for 2020

We have one family this year. Quintus is the father, Ekyla is the mother, and Nathan is their 1-year-old baby boy. They have requested the following items.

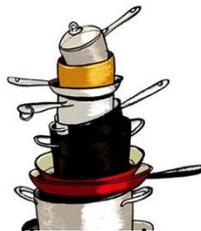
**Quintus the father needs:** Shirts, pants, and a jacket; all size 3XL and shoes size 11



**Ekyla the mother**

**needs:** Shirts, pants, and a jacket; all size XL and shoes size 7

**Nathan the baby needs:** Shirts, pants, and sleepers; all size 12/18 months, and shoes size 3.



Nathan's additional needs: diapers size 5, diaper wipes, and teething rings.

hygiene products,

To help with his development, Nathan's parents have also asked for a talking stuffed animal, a talking book, a push toy, and an educational toy

**The family also needs the following household items: .**

Cleaning products, pots and pans, bath towels and bath rugs (prefer gray, turquoise, black).

King pillows, a king blanket and king comforter (prefer gray, turquoise, black).

A convertible stroller with a car seat (they do not have a car), a crib or toddler bed (Nathan sleeps in a bassinet), and a security gate.



## Events and activities you do not want to miss!

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – November 29<sup>th</sup>

Not our usual “Hanging of the Greens”. We want to see your favorite Christmas ornament. Take a picture of it and send it to the church either in print or via e-mail along with a brief word about why it is your favorite, and we will put it on our “Christmas wall” for all to enjoy!

### December Mission Emphasis

Food Baskets for those in need. Watch for additional information!

### Cookie Exchange – Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM

Come with 4 dozen cookies, individually packaged in bags of 3 or 4, and go home with 4 dozen different cookies to try! Please bring a copy of your recipe on 8 ½ by 11 paper. There will be food, a devotional and lots of fun!

### March to the Manger – Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

Bring new toys and gifts (unwrapped) for children and teens., Saint Felix Pantry will distribute them to those in need. We can't “march” up front like we normally do, so we will put our gifts in the Narthex as we enter the Church for worship.

### White Elephant Party – Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM

Bring some snacks to share and a wrapped “white elephant” gift to exchange! Wear your ugly sweater, ugly socks, or ugly mask for our “UGLY” contest. We will play some games and have a little COVID safe fun! Everyone will need to wear a mask to join in!

### Happy Birthday Jesus Party – Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 4 to 7 PM

Each youth family will receive an invitation to the party, with the location and specifics. Each person attending should bring a wrapped Christmas ornament for our ornament exchange game (value not to exceed \$7.00). There will be food, games, and lots of laughter!

### Christmas Eve

### Candlelight Service

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

6 PM

A Celebration of Jesus' Birth

### Noon Year's Eve Party – Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 11 AM to 1 PM

Out with the old and in with the new! Let's kick 2020 to the curb and pray 2021 is an amazing year! We will play board games, enjoy a light lunch, and toast the new year!

We may have to do things differently this Christmas season, but we still need to count our blessings and give thanks to our mighty God!

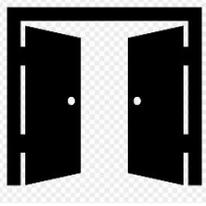
**“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.” Audrey Hepburn**



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## What to expect at in person worship during COVID!

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You may enter at any of the three entrances, but will be routed to the main entrance of the sanctuary with theatre ropes.

Weather permitting, entrance doors will be blocked open!



Everyone entering the Church will be required to wear a mask or face shield. (Masks will be available for anyone their own.)

without one of



There are 6 sanitation stations set up throughout the Church. One at each entrance, one directly inside the sanctuary and one between each set of restrooms.



Ushers will assist in seating. You may specify an area, but ushers will need to seat according to distancing rules.



Families may sit together.

Bulletins

Seating will be in alternate rows and we will require attendees to fill out a small form, registering your attendance and your seat location. This

will be used for contact tracing should someone later test positive. Please drop your form in the offering plate as you leave the service.



form



Bulletins will be e-mailed on Friday. If you wish to have one to follow along during the service, please print it out and bring it with you.



We will not have congregational singing. Please sit back and enjoy the music provided!

On the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, we will offer communion. Pre-packaged elements will be available as you enter the sanctuary. Please hold on to them until it is time to receive the elements. Complete instructions will be given during worship. Gluten free crackers

will also be available to those needing them, as the pre-packaged wafer is not gluten free.

Offering plates will not be passed during the worship service. You may drop your offering in the plates by the doors as you exit.

Even though things will look and feel a little different, we are so glad to be able to worship together as a family again! We cannot wait to see you and wave at you! Praying blessings on each of you!

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



### 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.**

### Support RRUMC When Christmas Shopping

Shopping online through the iGive.com website generates donations for our church 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. 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 or browser button. If you have any questions, contact John Hockert, the Financial Secretary, at [j.hockert@att.net](mailto:j.hockert@att.net) or 505-898-6813.

