



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.”

April 1, 2018 Volume 13, Issue 7



What's Inside?

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Prayer Corner | 2 |
| Anniversaries & Birthdays | 2 |
| Activities and Events | 3 |
| Youth Dinners | |
| Craft Night | |
| Wednesday Night Out | |
| Breakfast Burrito Fundraiser | |
| Women’s Event | |
| Graduation Brunch | |
| New Address (Kim & Rob) | |
| Origins of Easter Customs | 4 |
| One Day at a time Ministry | 4 |
| Famous Quotations | 4 |

Editor's Note

Why do you look
for the living
among the dead?
He is not here;
he has risen!

Luke 24:5-6

Easter is More than Just a Day

So many times, I catch myself preparing for Easter and then treating the season as if it is just one day. The truth is that the day we celebrate as Easter Sunday is the beginning of a period; a season in the life of the church. Matter of fact, the resurrection is not to be observed only one day, but for the entire year. All our liturgies center around the miraculous event that altered our lives. We must carry the good news with us always.

As I journey through the excitement of spring, I am caught up in all the excitement that surrounds me. Flowers are blooming. The days are warmer as daylight gives us more opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities. There is newfound energy in all our lives as we celebrate hard work and determination.

But what about the resurrection? My prayer is that we did not leave the event behind and vow to come back and celebrate next year. We call ourselves an Easter people, filled with the joy of our faith. We must hold on to the fact that a commitment to God is not reserved for one day, but a lifetime of service.

Today, let us remember that our praise must continue as we journey. Easter is about what God did and continues to do in our lives. We celebrate the resurrection, but we live in the full power of redemption. Because of God’s gift, we are made whole. Let us demonstrate that we are people alive and renewed in the reality that God’s love transcends time and space and that we press on in the fact that we are children of the Most-High God. Praise be to God, who gives us the final victory in His Son.

Happy Easter,

Pastor Joe

HE IS RISEN
the Lord is risen indeed

Prayer Corner
 Sunday, April 1, 2018
 EASTER SUNDAY PRAYER

~Rachel Marie Stone

Lord God, You loved this world so much,
 That you gave your one and only Son,
 That we might be called your children too.
 Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace
 Of Easter Sunday, every day.
 Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice.
 Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice in
 our salvation
 Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good
 news to the world.
 All for your glory do we pray, Lord,
 Amen.

Grace & Peace,

Judy Brunk



**April Anniversaries
 and Birthdays**

Anniversaries

MCCONNELL, Lee & Kathy 04/12
 SHARKEY, John & Jeri 04/21

Birthdays

MCKINLEY, Austin 04/05
 STUART, Alicia 04/05
 RABORN, Jim 04/09
 EKEROTH, Vangie (Evangeline) 04/11
 LOEWENSTEIN, Jim 04/11
 RENTERIA, Ismael 04/13
 HOLDER, Evonne 04/14
 COTTON, Ed 04/16
 MORRIS, Shirley 04/18
 HOLLAND, Ava 04/19
 SALAZ, Hillary 04/19
 WEAVER, Ronald 04/19
 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, Mike 04/23
 STIELOW, Dave 04/23
 GALLAHER, Walt 04/26
 STUART, Scott 04/26
 SMILEY, Madonna 04/27



Activities and Events

Youth Dinner Schedule

- 4/1 Easter Sunday – No Youth
- 4/8 Holland Family
- 4/15 Mueller Family
- 4/22 MacDonald Family
- 4/29 Miller Family



Women's Event

Calling all women: You are invited to join us on Friday, April 20th, from 5:30 to 8:30 PM, to get lost in God's presence! Leave behind the realities of this world in this moment and embrace the 3 realities of God:

- ♥ God Sees You
- ♥ God Remembers You
- ♥ God Understands You

The evening will start with a light meal, followed by study, fellowship, worship, a fun craft project and a service project. A flyer will be available this week on the welcome table. For questions, contact Kim Peterson in the church office at 892-0404x3 or at 450-9795.



Craft Night is Back! The choir room is open from 5 to 8 PM.

Bring your crafts and snacks to share, and join in the fun! The dates are April 3 & 24 and May 8. Questions, call Kim Peterson at 4509795 or 8920404x3.

Wednesday Night Out

resumes on Wednesday, April 4th. Dinner is at 5:30, followed by praise band, bible study and choir practice. Why not join us???

Breakfast Burrito Fundraiser



On Sunday, April 22nd, the youth will be selling breakfast burritos from 9 to noon in the fellowship hall. Order forms are available on the welcome table in the narthex to pre-order. All proceeds will help fund the summer mission trip to Boulder City, Nevada. Thanks in advance for supporting our youth!



Graduation Brunch

May 6th

9:45 AM

Fellowship Hall

We will honor our graduates with a brunch on Sunday, May 6th, during our regular fellowship time. Graduating this year are: Mamie Sechrest, Zac Lepori, Carter Brown and Anastazia Kofchur. If you know of anyone else from our church family who is graduating, please let me know.



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Origins of our Easter Customs

The common belief that our customs of decorating eggs and the Easter bunny are Christian adaptations of ancient pagan rites of Spring is mistaken. These customs come from European practices during the Christian middle ages. The name Easter comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *Eoster-monath*, which may be translated as month of beginnings, rather being related to the name of a pagan goddess.



The celebration of Easter with colored eggs also began with Medieval Christian practices. Medieval French scholar Terence Scully explains this well in *The Art of Cookery in the Middle Ages*. “Because eggs were one of the most important food-stuffs covered by the dietary injunctions of Lent...the end of this long period of purification and abstinence...was celebrated

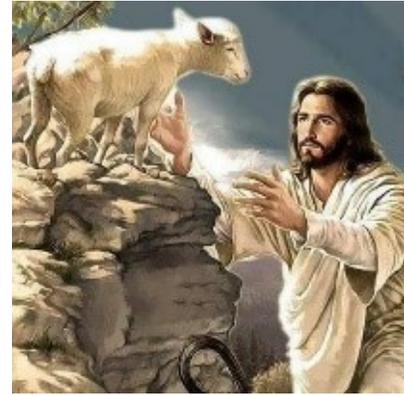
by a blessing of eggs in church. These eggs, stained and gaudily decorated with the happiest of bright colors in anticipation of their return to the dining board, were exchanged as gifts among friends and relatives; quite naturally they became known as ‘Easter Eggs’.” Historian Ronald Hutton relates how the household of King Edward I of England distributed 450 decorated eggs during a 1290 Easter celebration; how thirteenth-century medieval villages gifted manorial lords with Easter eggs; and how, by the early modern era, Easter eggs were given to poor children. He notes that eggs were a natural part of the Easter feast because they represented one of the chief delicacies of the large portion of pre-twentieth century populations too poor to afford meat. In mid-seventeenth century England, children went door to door begging for eggs or a bit of bacon just before just Easter in a tradition similar to our modern trick or treating. In other words, the tradition of decorating eggs at Easter and giving eggs to children began with the medieval Christian practices of Lent.

Although the Easter bunny is not directly related to Christian Lenten practices, it is not an adaptation of a pagan custom. The earliest reference to a rabbit bringing eggs is in a late sixteenth-century (1572) text from Lutheran Germany. The custom of children hunting for eggs seems to have begun about 1662. German immigrants brought these customs to America in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The customs were widely adopted outside of the German immigrant communities after the Civil War.

Thus, the traditions of both Easter eggs and the Easter Bunny are far more firmly rooted in early modern Christian Europe than the ancient pagan customs or faiths.



One Day at a Time Ministry



Many in our church family are concerned about homelessness.

And, there is a ministry in our community whose “purpose is to help men and women get back on their feet physically, emotionally and spiritually: To help them return to their communities as productive members of society.”

We will be hearing more about One Day at a Time Ministry where, “It is our faith in God that will lead us to victory over the strongholds of addiction and homelessness.”

Famous Quotations

If your dog thinks you are the greatest person in the world, don't seek a second opinion.

Jim Fiebig

There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face.

Ben Williams