



# Our Vision

Rio Rancho United Methodist Church

April 29, 2018 Volume 13, Issue 9

"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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## Editor's Note

**Don't be just a Sunday Morning Churchgoer. There are many church-associated activities and opportunities to volunteer that will both help the church and enrich your lives. Join the Choir; serve communion; serve as an usher; participate in a Bible Study class; or volunteer to help Kim with the Vacation Bible School. You will be glad that you did.**

## No One Likes to Walk Through the Darkness

No one likes to walk in the dead of night, unsure where they are going, or what animal they may encounter along the way. It is a frightening journey, and many times the terror of having to face our biggest fears overwhelms us. Hope at times seems lost, and there appears to be no way that we will rediscover happiness. Joy is a fleeting memory.

We sit in the darkness and cry out to God. "Where is the healing that you promised me, oh God? Where is my strength that appears to be dimming from view?" "I feel alone God, and your protection feels light years away from me. Pity me in my greatest heartache."

In these, the blackest of times, through the grace of God, we find the strength to turn our feet towards the glimmer of light that appears in the distance. Our journey will eventually become our healing, for this speck of brilliance will overwhelm the darkness to declare the miracle of Easter. The dawn of a new day promises to make its entrance.

We know that we must walk forward, but our journey is not an easy task. In the most desperate of times, we must remember that we must move through the darkness to get to the light. There is no walking around the bitterness to get to the promise of milk and honey. Faith brought us to this point and hopefully will move us through the pain and into the light.

In this fifth week of Easter, I am grateful for the miracle of life and rebirth which is given to us by our amazing Savior and Lord. With God's reassurance, my feet point towards the horizon, and I begin my journey, trusting that I advance to the fullness of grace. But I must take the first step. Praise be to the God who delivers us and guides us to the eternal promise of hope.

*Blessings,*

*Pastor Joe*

## Prayer Corner

Sunday, April 29, 2018

### God Is Talking. Are We Listening?

by John Ortberg, [\*The Life You've Always Wanted\*](#)

Why are we so often ambivalent about the notion of God talking to us? One recalls Lily Tomlin's line in the play *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*:

*Why is it that when we speak to God we are said to be praying, but when God speaks to us we are said to be schizophrenic?*

If I am to have a relationship with God that is in any sense personal, I must be open to the possibility that sometimes God does speak directly to me.

Why should God's end of the line be equipped with a receiver but no mouthpiece? In fact, being open and receptive to the leadings of the Holy Spirit is a non-optional part of transformation.

I believe that the Holy Spirit really does offer to lead or guide or give direction to human beings — ordinary people. He wants to do this for all of us.

This is not reserved for the elite or for leaders only or for "important people." It is not reserved for people who work as pastors or missionaries. It is not reserved for people who are "more spiritual" than you. The Holy Spirit can and will give this direction to us if we desire it.

You may be right on the verge of experiencing this.

Your adventure is about to begin.

*Grace & Peace,*  
*Judy Brunk*

## May Anniversaries & Birthdays

### Anniversaries

O'SICKEY, Chris & Mandi	05/01
ANDERSON, Greg & Marcia	05/03
CONNELL, Charlotte & Chuck	05/06

### Birthdays

HOLLAND, Nicole	05/01
SEPELAK, Evelyn	05/02
SCHRAMKO, Rogene	05/05
LEPORI, Suzi	05/07
MOORE, Cara	05/07
FLORES, Avery	05/09
ANDERSON, Eugene	05/11
LOEWENSTEIN, Liz	05/12
EKEROTH, Gus	05/15
LEGGIERO, William	05/16
BEGLEY, Isaac	05/17
MORYOSEF, Dory	05/24
MCCONNELL, Kathy	05/25
BEGLEY, Maximillian	05/26
HILBORN, Naomi	05/26
HILBORN, Donovan	05/30

### *Famous Quotations*

"Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do."

*Steve Jobs*

# Activities and Events

## Youth Dinner Schedule

- 4/29 Miller Family
- 5/6 Weir Family
- 5/13 No Youth – Mother's Day



## GRADUATION BRUNCH

May 6<sup>th</sup> 9:45 AM

Fellowship Hall



We will honor our graduates with a brunch on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 notify Kim Peterson.

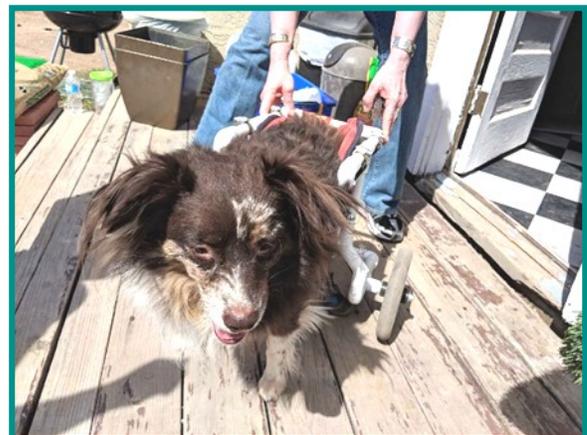
## Wednesday Night Out...

5/2 Spaghetti, Salad, French Bread, Lemon Dessert

## Breakfast Burrito Fundraiser

Thanks to everyone who purchased breakfast burrito's. We had a very successful sale!

Then, in the afternoon, the youth participated in a service project for Mr. MaGoo (a dog) who uses a wheelie chair. We helped to clean up his yard and build an area with shade and artificial turf so that it is safe for him to go outside.



## Women's Event

We had a marvelous time at our women's event. Twenty-five of us made a fun craft and heard some great stories that helped us to realize that God Sees Us, God Remembers Us and God Understands Us. We also made 31 Birthday Boxes, that have been delivered to PB&J in Bernalillo.

