



Our Vision

February 18, 2018 Volume 13, Issue 4



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Editor's Note

Don't forget to give thanks for the rain we received this past week (the first since last September, according to the Weather Bureau).

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."

And Thus, We Begin Our Pilgrimage

This week marked the beginning of the season of Lent. We are led into the wilderness to remember whose we are, and how we are to live as children of the Most-High God. Sometimes our pilgrimage is taken with tiny steps, afraid of what we may find in the process. Many times, our path is marked with big bold steps as we bound with excitement at our own spiritual awareness.

We remember that our journey is not one of punishment, but one of deep contemplative thinking. We come seeking to be inspired and renewed with heavenly strength. Our travel through the wilderness is one of reflection, and therefore it may be a bit more somber than what we call normal. Personal discoveries sometimes catch us unaware as we find our unique invitation to change. Healing can be exciting and at times terrifying.

And so, on this day that we begin the journey to Easter, let us reflect on who we are. Where do we want to be when we celebrate the victory that we know will come at the end of this season? To get to the other side of the Lenten time, we must go into the wilderness knowing that there are things about ourselves to discover. It is up to us as to how much we will grow.

Today, I am grateful that my faith allows me to journey into rough places, so that I may be made whole. I can heal. There is power in this process of self-awareness. May this time be a sacred time for all of us as we come to the realization that God is doing something for us that we cannot do for ourselves; we are being restored to completeness.

*Blessings for a Holy Lent,
Pastor Joe*

Prayer Corner

Sunday, February 18, 2018

The Act of Prayer

Prayer helps me. When I pray, something freaked-out and dazed inside me finds a place to lay down and rest.

When I pray, I don't feel so alone in the universe. I feel like there is a web, a finely spun net, holding it all together, keeping it spinning. I feel powerless, and prayer reminds me that I may be powerless, but there is power, and the one who holds the power is good.

Prayer reminds me that the universe is not powerless against evil and loss. I imagine a huge choir, hundreds of voices, and they're singing something unquestionably, remarkably beautiful, and if you look at each person, you can see their intensity, their attention to detail and precision, their extreme focus on sounds and phrases. And you can see their love for music and their passion to sing. You could never pick out an individual voice, out of those several hundred, but that's not the point. They are not singing to be heard individually. They are singing for the act itself, for the love of music and tone and melody. That's one of the reasons I pray, for the act itself.

Excerpted from *Savor*, by Shauna Niequist, copyright Zondervan.

Grace and Peace

Judy Brunk



February Anniversaries And Birthdays

Anniversaries

LEGGIERO, Bill & Theresa	02/01
BAYLESS, Liz & Rachel	02/07
SCHNEPPER, Kim	02/14
LOEWENSTEIN, Jim & Kelly	02/22

Birthdays

STIELOW, Peg	02/05
VEACH, Norm	02/06
BARTMESS, Karen	02/09
YEAGER, Lucia	02/14
MILLER, Lydia	02/15
REAGIN, Julie	02/16
MORYOSEF, Jamie	02/17
FUCHS, Connor	02/19
CONNELL, Chuck	02/23
LEWIS, Kandice	02/24
ELLIOTT, Jennifer	02/26
BERDIN, Dorothy	02/27

Activities and Events

Youth Dinner Schedule

- 2/18 Mini-Retreat
- 2/25 Miller Family
- 3/4 Lepori Family
- 3/11 Destination Unknown



Sunday, February 18th to
Monday, February 19th
5:00 PM to 11:00 AM



We are going to have another Mini-Retreat. In addition to fun activities, we will be putting together our next Youth Led Worship. We will be spending the night at the church, so everyone needs to bring a sleeping bag and pillow. In addition, each youth is asked to bring snacks to share. (There will be a mandatory "sleep" time. If you want to stay up all night - stay at home!) We will start the retreat at 5 PM on Sunday evening with dinner. We will conclude the retreat on Monday at 11 AM. Breakfast will be provided by Kim. Everyone is encouraged to attend, to get to know other youth better and to help with Youth Led Worship. Hope to see you all there!



Every non-perishable food item and dollar donated here at RRUMC went to Storehouse West, Rio Rancho UMC Youth Group's 2018 Souper Bowl of Caring charity of choice. This year we donated 851 non-perishable food items and \$197.37. Thanks to everyone who participated. (Everyone guessed way high! Sorry no winner on that, but everyone who goes to Storehouse West for food donations will be a winner, thanks to RRUMC's giving!) When I (Kim) delivered the food, the volunteer workers were very pleased as some of their shelves were getting a bit empty.

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 13th



Thanks to everyone who supported the youth for the Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper. All proceeds will help us to go on our summer mission trip to Boulder City, Nevada.

Craft Night is Back! Our next craft night is Tuesday, February 27th. The choir room is open from 5 to 8 PM. Bring your crafts and snacks to share, and join in the fun! The other dates are March 13, April 3 & 24 and May 8. Questions, call Kim Peterson at 450-9795 or 892-0404x3.



FunStressRelief.com



(See John 20:1-18)

03-29-2002

I WANT YOU TO FOLD UP MY BURIAL CLOTHES,
WAIT FOR MARY, AND REMEMBER THAT THIS IS
SERIOUS ... NO HIDING AND YELLING "BOO"

Famous Quotations

I've never known anybody to achieve anything without overcoming diversity.

Lou Holtz

Sainthood emerges when you can listen to someone else's tale of woe and not respond with a description of your own.

Andrew V. Mason, MD

You only lose energy when life gets dull in your mind. Get interested in something. Get out of yourself. Be somebody! Do something bigger than yourself. The more you lose yourself in something bigger than yourself, the more energy you will have.

Norman Vincent Peale

The United Methodist Lent Quiz

1. What does the term 'Lent,' which comes from 'lencten,' mean?
1) Sacrifice 2) Time 3) Spring 4) March Madness
2. How were ashes imposed in the early church? 1) The shape of a cross was drawn on the forehead. 2) Ashes were smeared across closed eyelids. 3) Ashes were poured or sprinkled over the head.
3. Why do people give things up for Lent? 1) To follow the example of Jesus' 40-day fast in the wilderness. 2) To help us focus on prayer and devotions. 3) To give the acquired savings to the poor. 4) All of the above.
4. What snack food has significance during Lent? 1) Chocolate 2) Pretzels 3) Popcorn 4) All of the above.
5. Many people fast during Lent. How often did John Wesley fast?
1) Twice a week 2) Twice a month 3) Twice a year 4) Rarely 5) He did not fast.
6. Why does Lent last 40 days? 1) To represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, tempted by Satan. 2) To recall the 40 days and nights the earth was flooded in the Old Testament. 3) To remind us of the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert.
7. What do some United Methodists not sing at Lent? 1) Doxologies 2) Alleluia 3) "In the Garden" 4) The communion liturgy
8. Which hymn, based on St. Patrick's prayer, would be a good Lenten devotion? 1) "Jesus Walked This Lonely Valley" 2) "Christ Beside Me" 3) "O Happy Day, That Fixed My Choice" 4) "Come and Find the Quiet Center"
9. True or false? Sundays are not counted in the 40 days of Lent.
True False
10. When early Methodists in America sat in a church on a mourner's bench, they would: 1) Repent their sins 2) Experience a new birth 3) Rededicate themselves to Jesus 4) All of the above

Answers to the Lent Quiz

1. When early Methodists in America sat in a church on a mourner's bench, they would... The correct answer is all of the above.
2. How were ashes imposed in the early church? The correct answer is the shape of a cross was drawn on the forehead.
3. Why do people give things up for Lent? The correct answer is all of the above.
4. What snack food has significance during Lent? The correct answer is pretzels.
5. Many people fast during Lent. How often did John Wesley fast? The correct answer is twice a week.
6. Why does Lent last 40 days? The correct answer is to represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, tempted by Satan.
7. What do some United Methodists not sing at Lent? The correct answer is alleluia.
8. Which hymn, based on St. Patrick's prayer, would be a good Lenten devotion? The correct answer is "Christ Beside Me."
9. True or false? Sundays are not counted in the 40 days of Lent. The correct answer is True.
10. When early Methodists in America sat in a church on a mourner's bench, they would: The correct answer is All of the above.