



Our Vision

Rio Rancho United Methodist Church

March 4, 2018 Volume 13, Issue 5

“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

[A busy time of the year—Election, School, RRUMC Activities](#)

The Purpose of the Wilderness Journey

Several weeks have passed since Ash Wednesday, and we are still in the wilderness, exploring and discovering things about ourselves. We found our way through the darkness, we stopped and rested, and we gathered strength to finish the journey. All these different things done to discover something unique and remarkable about our lives. We keep seeking to rediscover that unknown spark that ignites our souls and leads us onward.

Why? What is the point in taking this journey? I think the answer is simple. We explore our hearts and minds during the season of Lent so that we can experience a radical transformation in our lives. We grow closer to God through discovering what the wilderness has to offer. Each step is moving us forward.

It is not an easy journey at all. We must face things that force us to examine our hearts and check for the unnecessary obstacles that separate us from the Divine. The task is arduous but hear the good news. Each step, each discovery, each moment that we learn about God, we grow in faith. We return out of the wilderness and back to life with a renewed spirit of faith.

I must admit, there are times that I enjoy being in the wilderness. There is a comfort in searching. There is a purpose. I don't have to discover why and how. It is understood. We know we entered this space to reconnect with God. When we leave this place, where will we go? That is our next adventure.

Today in the wilderness, I am thankful for the discoveries that I find along the path. I am grateful that we have these forty days in which we explore our faith lives. We return with new determination and a fresh view of our world. Praise Be to God, who equips us to come back to serve the world.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Joe

UMCOR Sunday is March 11

Supporting UMCOR paves the way for humanitarian relief when war, conflict or natural disaster disrupts life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own. Teams were in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria and partnered with local churches to distribute supplies, hope and love to people facing a slow recovery process. Participate in UMCOR Sunday on March 11 to ensure that everyone can receive help when it’s needed most.

Prayer Corner

Sunday, March 4, 2018

Sometimes the best way to find out about prayer is just to turn to the Bible as in the following from Ephesians 3:14-21, and see how Paul did it.

For this reason I fall on my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth receives its true name. I ask God from the wealth of his glory to give you power through his Spirit to be strong in your inner selves, and I pray that Christ will make his home in your hearts through faith. I pray that you may have your roots and foundation in love, so that you, together with all God's people, may have the power to understand how broad and long, how high and deep, is Christ's love. Yes, may you come to know his love—although it can never be fully known—and so be completely filled with the very nature of God. To him who by means of his power working in us is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of: to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever! Amen.
Ephesians 3:14-21 GNT

*Grace & Peace,
Judy Brunk*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Outreach – Thurs., 3/08 @ 6 pm
- Rehearsal for Living Last Supper – Sat., 3/10 @ 10 am
- Rehearsal for Youth Led Worship – Sat., 3/10 @ 6:30 pm
- Daylight Savings Time Begins! – Sun., 3/11
- Youth / Destination Unknown – Sun., 3/11 @ 3 pm

March Anniversaries And Birthdays

Anniversaries

WEAVER, Ron & Madonna Smiley	03/01
JOHNSON, Peggy	03/11
VEACH, Norm	03/21
VEACH, Rebecca	03/24

Birthdays

KOHLRUST, Jan	03/01
BEGLEY, Ivan	03/03
BENSON, James	03/04
COLSON, Jeanine	03/07
ELLIOTT, Michael	03/08
BAIR, Reed	03/09
O'SICKEY, Chris	03/09
WISEUR, Bryce	03/10
RABORN, Marcy	03/13
KISSINGER, Fran	03/18
FLORES, Cortland	03/26
MCGREGOR, Roland	03/26
SECHREST, Kristine	03/26
COOLEY, Nancy	03/29
MOELLER, Melodee	03/31



Activities and Events

Youth Dinner Schedule

- 3/4 Lepori Family
- 3/11 Destination Unknown
- 3/18 Roberts Family
- 3/25 Baltz Family



Easter Lilies & Spring Flowers



It's time to order Easter lilies and spring flowers to decorate our sanctuary. Flowers can be ordered in honor or memory of someone or to the glory of the season. We will take orders through March 25th. Order

forms are on the welcome table in the Narthex.

WNO MENU

Wednesday Night Out Dinner is served at 5:30 PM on Wednesday evenings. There is a suggested donation of \$4 per adult and \$3 per child. We hope to see you for dinner!

- 3/07 Spaghetti, Salad, French Bread, Mock Éclair
- 3/14 Green Chili Casserole, Salad, Chips & Salsa, Ice Cream Sundaes
- 3/21 Hamburger Steak in Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls & Butter, Butterfinger Cake
- 3/28 No Meal – Holy Week



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 March 13, April 3 & 24 and May 8. Questions, call Kim Peterson at 450-9795 or 892-0404x3

Confirmation Retreat



The confirmation retreat is March 16th and 17th. All confirmand families, prayer partners and mentors should have received a letter with all the information. Please remember to RSVP

Kim Peterson in the office at 892-0404 x3 or on her cell at 450-9795. If you did not receive your letter, please contact Kim for the information.

Youth Led Worship

The youth will be leading worship on Sunday, March 11th, at 8:30 and 11:00 AM. We invite you to join us as we take a closer look at John 3:16.

(Remember to set your clocks back an hour, so you don't show up at the wrong time!)



Destination Unknown

After Youth Led Worship, instead of our regular youth group time, we will have a "Destination Unknown" event. We will meet at the Church at 3:00 PM, and travel to our location. We should return to the Church around 5:30 PM. Please dress for the weather as we will be outside! Our Scripture for this Destination is Ephesians 4:1-16. Look up the "Easy to Read" version!

Good Friday Service of Darkness



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. **Join us for this powerful service on Friday, March 30th at 7:00 PM.**



Resurrection

Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 31st

2 to 4 PM



Children young and old are invited to join us for an afternoon of Easter fun! We will start with some fun songs, decorate hard boiled eggs, be creative with crafts, hear a couple of great Easter stories, make and eat a yummy snack and finish with an Easter egg hunt. Parents are encouraged to stay and help their children with the activities. We need donations of individually wrapped candy and hard-boiled eggs. Candy can be dropped off any time in the education office, from now until March 28th. Hard-boiled eggs need to be at the church by 2 pm on Saturday, March 31st. We also need a few adult volunteers to man the craft and snack activities. **Let Kim Peterson know if you can volunteer. Thanks in advance for your donations and help!**



Famous Quotations

The secret of genius is to carry the spirit of the child into old age.

Aldous Huxley

Live with men as if God saw you, and talk to God as if men were listening.

Athenodorus

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

Jim Fiebig

Our congregation has many fine young people. One of them has inspired me -- Ava Holland, and her Coats for Kids project last December, 2017. I have asked her and she has agreed to join me in requesting help from our congregation to have a Coats for Kids project -- **RRUMC-style**. I sew a lot and have challenged myself to sew one coat each month, now I am asking any of you who sew to please make one coat for a school age child. You have 10 months to do it. Or if you do not sew, perhaps you could purchase just one coat or if you have a young relative that has outgrown their coat, donate it. These efforts would be wonderful and I believe we would be "loving our neighbors" as Christ commanded we do and as Ava did last December. She and I will store them if given to us before next December and at that time they will be taken to KOAT-TV. Thank you all in advance for any help you can give us and for your prayers. **Donna Root (512)-258-7051.**

Afghan Auction

For the benefit of the Music Department

Betty Gallaher is selling raffle tickets in the Narthex for this beautiful afghan. It measures 60 inches by 90 inches (5ft. X 7ft. 6 inches).

Tickets are \$1.00 each; 6 for \$5.00; 13 for \$10.00 or 30 for \$20.00. All proceeds will go to the Music Department benefiting the Choir, the Praise Band, the Bell Choir and the Sonshine Choir.



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