



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.”

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Editor's Note

Red is the color for Pentecost Sunday.
Be sure to visit Fellowship Hall between services next week and enjoy **Red**.

The Language of Praise

I am sitting in my office enjoying choral music. Since getting to church this morning, I have heard at least four different languages singing praises to the same God. Each song that is sung in its original form crosses cultural boundaries to exalt the Creator. The beauty comes from a place that matches profound love that is easily understood no matter which language, dialect, or style. Truth abounds across political boundaries.

As Christians, we sometimes are guilty of “othering” voices that don't quite sound like ours. We blind our hearts to those who worship differently than we do. “Why can't they sing this song the way our church does?” “That's not Biblical.” We stand on our moral high horses as if God requires us to defend how He chooses to reveal Himself to humanity. Our gratitude is replaced with a self-righteousness that is anything but gracious, kind, or slightly understanding.

I am reminded that my voice is not the only voice that lifts praises to God. There is beauty in the many expressions of divine love that reach out to the One, who continues to work great wonders in His creation. My heart must be open to hear the splendor of someone else's joy. Their pronouncements will infuse my spirit to live bigger, reach higher, love bolder. I simply need to listen.

Our task is great as we continue to grow in Christ. As we move forward, we must not forget that others are on the journey. We must not lose sight of the fact that we all come searching for hope, for only in our willingness to acknowledge each other's words can we be the community of God. We must remember that before we become members of our local churches, we take vows to be the universal church. The global church of God, where denominational boundaries are not included. Praise be to our God, who gives us the victory in His Son.

*Blessings to All,
Pastor Joe*

Prayer Corner
Sunday, May 13, 2018

A TIME CLAIMED FOR GOD
From Max Lucado's *Daily Devotion*

A friend described to me her daily ninety-minute commute. "Ninety minutes," I commiserated. "Don't feel sorry for me," she smiled, "I use the trip to think about God." She went on to describe how she fills the hour listening to entire books of the Bible. She recites prayers. By the time she reaches her place of employment, she's ready for the day. She says, "I turn my commute into my chapel." Is there a block of time you can claim for God? Perhaps turning off the network news and opening your Bible. Set the alarm fifteen minutes earlier. Rather than watch TV as you fall asleep, listen to an audio version of the Bible or a Christian book. Jesus says, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32 ESV).

Grace & Peace,
Judy Brunk

Ordination Ceremony

Our incoming pastor, Rev. Raquel Mull, will be ordained as an elder during Annual Conference this year. The ordination service will be held at St. John's UMC - Albuquerque on Thursday, June 14 at 7 p.m. You are welcome to attend this ceremony.

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

Youth fades; love droops; the leaves of friendship fall; A mother's secret hope outlives them all.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

It may be possible to gild pure gold, but who can make his mother more beautiful?

Mahatma Gandhi

When your mother asks, 'Do you want a piece of advice?' it's a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway.

Erma Bombeck

A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts.

Washington Irving

Activities and Events

Youth Dinner Schedule

- 5/13 No Youth – Mother’s Day
- 5/20 Brech Family
- 5/27 Welcome 6th Graders - Special Event
- 6/3 Hilborn Family
- 6/10 Baltz Family



Important VBS Info...

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner and so in preparation, we have the following opportunities:



Sunday, May 27th is the day we welcome our new 6th graders into youth group. This year we will be going to Kiln It, to get creative! We will meet at Kiln It at 1:00 PM. As youth finish, they can call parents to be picked up. Let’s all get together, have a great time and welcome the new members to our group!

Wednesday Night Out...

- 5/16 Meatball Subs, French Fries, Veggies & Dip, Summer Berry Pie
- 5/23 ??? – This is our last WNO ‘til Fall –



Craft Night Continues! The choir room is open from 5 to 8 PM. Bring your crafts and snacks to share, and join in the fun! Our next Craft Night is May 22nd. Questions, call Kim Peterson at 450-9795 or 892-0404x3.

Registration: Registration forms are located on the bulletin board. It is important that everyone who wants to attend VBS pre-register.

Volunteers: Those who have completed 5th grade through adults are encouraged to volunteer. Let Kim know how you want to help

Food: It has been our tradition to feed our volunteers. If you would be willing to provide food for a meal, please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Sets: We will start working on the sets May 29th. Young and old are welcome to help. Imagination is a plus! If interested in helping, let Kim Peterson know.

Supplies: There are a few envelopes left for \$ donations, and tags for supplies that are needed. If you want to help, please grab an envelope or a tag from the bulletin board.

Training & Decorating Party: If you are helping with VBS, it is important that you attend our training and decorating party on Sunday, June 10th, starting at 12:15 PM with lunch. Then, we will have an overview, address concerns and decorate the entire church for VBS. (This takes about 2 hours.)

Questions: Call Kim Peterson at 892-0404x3 or 450-9795.

Summer Sunday School



Fun Summer Christian Adventures await at Summer Sunday school!

We will learn how to play and share lovingly as Jesus did!

Games, scavenger hunts, nature discovery and more for K – 5th grade
9:45 to 10:45 AM each Sunday morning

June 3rd through August 19th.

Volunteers needed – sign up on the bulletin board!



Summer Movie Dates

May 30th, June 8th,

June 19th, July 2nd,

And July 19th

The above dates are summer movie days for the youth. The movie and time will be determined three to four days before and an e-mail or text sent to all youth. Friends are welcome to come too! Youth/friends will need to bring money for snacks.

Mother's Day History

The origin of Mother's Day goes back to the era of ancient Greek and Romans. But the roots of [Mother's Day](#) history can also be traced in [UK](#) where a Mothering Sunday was celebrated much before the festival saw the light of the day in US. However, the celebration of the festival as it is seen today is a recent phenomenon and not even a hundred years old.

Thanks to the hard work of the pioneering women of their times, Julia Ward Howe and Anna Jarvis that the day came into existence. Today the festival of Mothers day is celebrated across 46 countries (though on different dates) and is a hugely popular affair. Millions of people across the globe take the day as an opportunity to honor their mothers, thank them for their efforts in giving them life, raising them and being their constant support and well wisher.

Episcopal Letter from

Bishop Bledsoe

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! By now most have heard that at our last Council of Bishops meeting in Chicago we received the final report from the Commission on the Way Forward. I want to express my appreciation and thanks for all of you who prayed not only for the Council, but also for the work of the Commission – “Praying Our Way Forward.” I can truly say we would not have been able to complete our work without the prayers of individuals and the churches. It is important to also realize that the work of the Council was guided by a mission, vision and scope that included the following: To design a way for being the church that maximizes the presence of the United Methodist witness in as many different places as possible, allows for contextual differentiation, and creates as much unity as possible.

After receiving the report of the Commission, we as the Council of Bishops agreed to submit all three plans (Traditional, One Church and Connectional Conference) to the delegates of the special called session of the General Conference to be held in February 2019. There was strong support in the Council for the One Church plan and this plan will carry the recommendation of the Council of Bishops. I know there will be many questions surrounding this action. Why forward all three plans if the Council is recommending one? To maintain transparency, we wanted to honor the values contained in all three models and to acknowledge that within the Council of Bishops, there is support for each of the three plans. The Council of Bishops believes the One Church plan is the best way forward for The United Methodist Church. We believe this plan allows for contextualization of language about human sexuality in support of our mission.

I will be meeting with the conference delegates to the special called session of the General Conference to talk about next steps and providing information for The Annual Conference. I will also be working with each district superintendent to plan opportunities for me to visit each of the districts to hear your concerns and hopes regarding this recommendation prior to the Special Called Session. My prayer is that we remain focused on our mission while continuing to pray for the leadership of the church as we continue to discern God's will and plan for the church. I look forward to seeing you at Annual Conference.

W. Earl Bledsoe

Bishop