



Our Vision

Rio Rancho United Methodist Church

Sunday, November 24, 2019, Vol. 14, Issue 22

“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

Rachel Balliett is now a member of our staff. Our thanks to Irene Fruit who came for three weeks and helped out so much while the SPRC made it's search. If you get a chance, please stop by the office and introduce yourself so she can put a face to the name. We pray Rachel will be with us for a long time!

Dear Ones,

I just got a little packet of Blessing Mix. It had Bugles® to remind us of the cornucopia, a symbol of our abundance; some pretzels for arms folded in prayer, prayers which our founders were dependent upon. My little bag also had some candy corn, the sacrifice of the Pilgrim’s first winter. Food was so scarce they survived on a few kernels of corn a day. The nuts and seeds were the promise of future harvest - only obtained as we plant and nourish with diligence and faith. The M&M’s are for memories of those who came before and lead us to a blessed future. And finally, a Hershey’s Kiss® for the love of family and friends that sweeten our lives. I love these physical reminders of what we need to be thankful for.

Every Sunday, we give thanks before the offering is taken and I wonder if maybe, just maybe, we take too many things for granted. We have become jaded from our experience with humanity and that may make it harder to trust and give. We even have a national holiday set aside to remind us to be thankful. As we sit around our table this Thursday, whether there are a few or a roomful, let us be thankful for everything we have and include our church family and the reason for our faith, Yeshua the Christ.

Hozho,

Pastor Raquel



PRAYER CORNER

Sunday, November 24, 2019

LOSING CONTROL

This is another excerpted and paraphrased page from Philip Yancey's book ***Prayer, Does it Make a Difference?*** Jim recounts his early experiences of his journey with God and how this changed him in later life.

Jim was raised in the church, but he never really connected with God. He knew God was there, but he had issues with the way some things turned out. A Promise Keepers rally turned his life around. Singing old hymns with thousands of men brought tears to his eyes. (As they did for me at the two rallies I attended.) He realized that he held a grudge against God for many years and that selfish reasons had kept him and his family from church for a long time.

As with many new-born Christians, his appetite for the Word became insatiable. He read every book he could lay his hands on. He would wake up in the middle of the night to continue reading. He had a list of requests for God to fill and complaints for God to hear. As he recounts, he spent a lot of time whining to God.

A week-long silent retreat changed everything. He listened for God to speak and kept a journal for the first time in his life. He began to feel very close to God, what it meant to "pray without ceasing." He began to feel what Paul was feeling when he wrote about the Spirit groaning inside of us. He began to understand what that means.

Jim no longer worries about whether God is out there or not. He assumes that God is always present. He doesn't ask for nearly as much anymore from God. Specific requests were just a passing fancy. Jim wants reassurance that God loves him and that God knows and understands his concerns.

Jim trusts God. Trust means that everything else loses its priority. There was a time when Jim tested God by praying something like if God was really listening, a deer would walk past him in the next five or ten minutes. There was the rare occasion when that happened! He soon realized that he was trying to control God's actions. He began to see that most of his specific prayers were shallow, like asking God to make his children listen to him and behave exactly like he wanted them to.

That doesn't happen anymore. He's learned that his personal wants and wishes turn out as disappointments. The best things are unexpected gifts which God pours out on him and others. Prayer works the same way. Paul wrote to the Philippians that we were not to be anxious, but pray about everything we do. That's the key to the peace of God. Treasure the time you spend with God and at some time in the future your prayer requests to God will be answered.

ravel. *Lowell*

Activities and Events

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

11/24 Sechrest Family
 12/1 Dyna Max & Dinner
 12/8 Christmas Caroling
 12/15 Happy Birthday Jesus Party

Poinsettia Season



It's time to order poinsettias for the Christmas season. Order forms are in the bulletin and on the welcome table. Be sure and order yours today!

Prep for Christmas!

Today after the 11 AM worship service, we will be getting the Christmas decorations and greenery from the attic and fluffing the greenery. All help is greatly appreciated. Then on Monday, and Tuesday, November 25th and 26th, the Christmas trees and most of the decorations will need to be put up in preparation for the Christmas season. If you are available to help on Monday or Tuesday, please let Kim Peterson know. Decorating our Church for the Christmas season is a big job and takes many hands! Thanks in advance to everyone willing to help!

Hanging of the Greens & Potluck Brunch with Santa



Our annual "Hanging of the Greens" Worship Service and Potluck Brunch with Santa is Sunday, December 1st. Worship is at 10 AM, followed by brunch. Youth will be leading worship, with congregation participation in decorating the Christmas Tree. Everyone is invited to bring a potluck dish to share and join in the fellowship hall following worship. Santa will be making a visit too!

Instead of regular youth group, youth will be going to Dyna-Max and dinner. Watch for an e-mail or text for the time to meet.



**Women's
 Friday, December 6th
 6:00 PM**

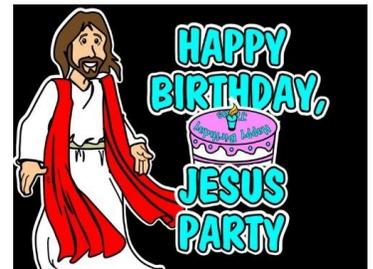
All women are invited! Bring 6 dozen cookies and your recipe on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper. We will start with dinner, followed by devotional/sharing time, and some singing! Then, to finish, we will exchange cookies! Come on out and join in the fun!



**Christmas
 Caroling Sunday,
 December 8th, 5 to
 7 PM**

We are going to decorate the tables in the fellowship hall, each one to represent a different Christmas carol. Then see if we can figure out what carols they are. Plus, we will be singing all our favorite carols. Bring some snacks to share! We need 9 or ten people (or groups) to decorate tables. If you would like to decorate a table, please let Kim Peterson know.

**Happy Birthday
 Jesus Party!
 Sunday, Dec. 15
 4 to 7 PM
 Youth & Families**



We will play some awesome games, have some yummy food, and swap Christmas ornaments. For the exchange (value not to exceed \$7). Parents and siblings are welcome to attend. Invitations will be mailed to each youth family a couple of weeks in advance with the location of the event.

There will be NO WNO Dinner on November 27. We will have WNO Dinners on December 4th and 11th. Will take a break, and will resume the dinners on January 15th.

November Anniversaries & Birthdays

Anniversaries

BRADY, Harold (Gene) & Linda	11/04
GREASER, Walter & Tanya	11/16

Birthdays

HOLDER, Robert	11/02
COOLEY, Katrina	11/10
KRITCHER, Robert	11/13
WELCH, Sandra	11/14
KHOLRUST, Tim	11/14
SELOVER, Avery	11/15
WHITMORE, Aiden	11/19
COOLEY, Katrina	11/19
CYNHIA, Douglas	11/20
O'SICKEY, Lily	11/20
LEWIS, Ryan	11/23
SELOVER, Shelly	11/23
LONG, Nickki	11/26
BRIGHAM, Priscilla	11/26
BALTZ, Samantha	11/26
VAUGHN, Elissa	11/30

UPCOMING EVENTS

Walk to the Manger—On December 8th, unwrapped toys for babies, children and teens can be brought to the church to be delivered to St. Felix Pantry. At the appropriate time, Pastor will invite you to bring your offering and place it in the container next to the Altar Rail.

2020 Pictorial RRUMC Directory—Pictures will be taken on December 1st and 8th one hour before Sunday Service and then again during Fellowship.

Reminder—We are going to one service starting on December 1st. Sunday School and the Women's Bible Study will start then at 9 AM. The Wesley Bible Study will meet from 8:45 AM till 9:45AM in Fellowship Hall.

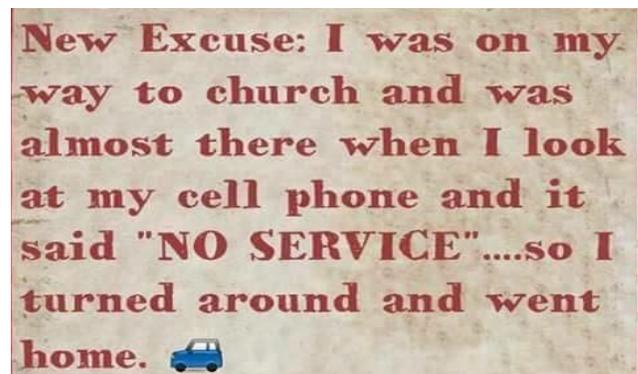
December Anniversaries & Birthdays

Anniversaries

BERDIN, Sam & Dorothy	12/16
MORYOSEF, Dory	12/16
LEWIS, Shelley	12/17
GALLAHER, Walt & Betty	12/26
WHITE, Billy & Celesta	12/28

Birthdays

JACQUEZ, Christian	12/02
ANDERSON, Marcia	12/03
PLATERO, Kimberly	12/03
PURYEAR, Story	12/07
SORENSEN, Dennis	12/07
WISE JR, Tony	12/07
SECHREST, Mamie	12/09
VANDEWIELE, Hailey	12/09
COOLEY, Star	12/10
CHAVEZ, Pat	12/11
GARCIA JR, Felix	12/12
MCCONNELL, Lee	12/13
MOELLER, Jeff	12/14
WHITE, Jessica	12/16
KOFCHUR, Phoenix	12/17
BAIR, Kelli	12/20
ROGGE, Pam	12/21
BAIR, Ken	12/26
SEEFELDT, Susan	12/26
BRUNK, Judy	12/28
HILBORN, Symphony	12/28
LEGGIERO, Theresa	12/30
MCCONNELL, James	12/30
VEACH, Beckie	12/30
HOLLAND (WEST), Megan	12/31

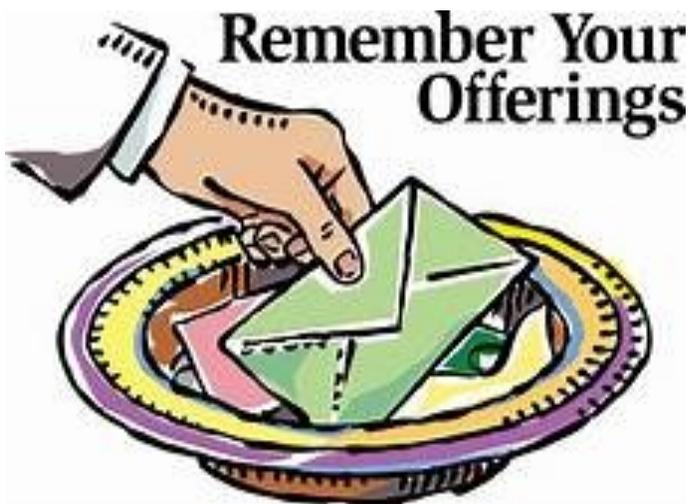


Living a God-Pleasing Life

Thanks to everyone who has made a commitment to share his or her financial or other gifts with the Body of Christ at Rio Rancho UMC as part of our living a God-pleasing life emphasis. If you were unable to make a written commitment last Sunday, it is not too late. You can pick up a commitment card in the Narthex today, in the church office this week, or from our Financial Secretary, John Hockert. We will announce and celebrate the total financial commitments made next Sunday, December 1, at our brunch with Santa potluck after the Hanging of the Greens worship service. *As God-pleasing stewards, we know that all we have belongs to him so we can hold our time, talents, and money in an open palm. "Freely you have received, freely give." Matthew 10:8*

The Money Quote

To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything He has given us – and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His Love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him." – Thomas Merton, Christian mystic.



Morning Adult Sunday School to Persist Despite Scheduling Challenges

After considerable discussion about the challenges arising from the new single service Sunday schedule, the adult Sunday school class,

Let go of the distractions, explore new places, discover the depths of God's love, soar in the heights of God's grace, connect with Christ, connect with your spirit and stop, breathe and listen to God.

which has met at 9:45 am in the Music Room, will try meeting from 8:45 to 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall beginning on December 1. We will see how this time and place

work out given the possible disruptions from early activities in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact John Hockert.

Free Store

The Free Store will once again be hosting their Christmas Store on December 7.

As we anticipate buying or getting new household items for Christmas, please think of passing old used items to the store.

The store is also always in need of bed linens (primarily queen) size, electric counter items, flatware, blankets, pots and pans.

If you are a shopper at Albertsons and have unused E-stamps to use toward pots and pans, think of using them to get a free pot or pan to donate to the Free Store.

We continue to collect all through the year.

Please think of volunteering in this charitable Mission.

Thanksgiving Guest Crossword

Across

- 1. Wharton grad
- 4. Amount of hair
- 9. "Dig in!"
- 10. Devastation
- 11. "___ Doubtfire"
- 12. Swelling
- 13. Texas oil city
- 15. Indefinite article
- 16. Not together
- 18. "___ You Like It"
- 20. Boozers
- 23. Type of scallop
- 25. Neighbor of Wash.
- 26. "Farewell, mon ami"
- 27. Chill
- 28. Stands for
- 29. Acquire

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8
9				10				
11				12				
13			14				15	
		16				17		
18	19		20				21	22
23		24				25		
26						27		
28						29		

Down

- 1. Exec's note
- 2. Poet
- 3. Bewildered
- 4. Synonym finder
- 5. Navigation aids
- 6. "The Three Faces of ___"
- 7. Body

- 8. Diagnostic test
- 14. Ire
- 17. Flip-flop
- 18. Sandler of "Big Daddy"
- 19. Pro or con
- 21. Cleveland's lake
- 22. Aug. follower
- 24. By way of

the shaded diagonal.

T	E	G		S	N	V	E	M
P	N	I		U	E	I	D	A
R	O	R		E	R	V	I	D
S	H	S		L	U	S	V	A
		T		R	A	P	A	
N	V			A	S	S	E	O
A	M	E		D	E	S	R	S
C	O	V		H		T	V	E
S						T	R	E

The title is a clue to the word in