



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

Been hearing about problems in our church? Be assured our church team leaders are working to take care of them. We are NOT a sinking Ship.

The End is Just the Beginning

This weekend marks the end of the church year. Christ, the King Sunday is known as a mini-Easter. We celebrate the holiness of Jesus, and the amazing power and glory revealed in the Savior’s divine kingship. Under the umbrella of the Holy One, we find new life. We are restored and made whole in the shadow of the Almighty’s wings.

How will we celebrate the end of the year? We will acknowledge and give thanks for the Messiah and all His great gifts lavished on us. We will remember a year that included its challenges while not forgetting the amazing things that happened. Every one of the events that we celebrate are moments intermingled with holy love. Whatever, good or sad, we grow to realize that God is present through them all.

Very shortly we will begin a new year. We will start all over again, hoping and trusting that a new year will be different. There will be new opportunities to discover; new dreams to fulfill. And with each new adventure, God is there to remind us of His love. Holy love never fails us. It is always present, encouraging us to move forward.

On this last day of the church year, let us celebrate our Lord’s victorious presence as we remember the awesome reality that Jesus reigns. May we never forget the Messiah’s amazing grace that continues to remind us of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, so that we may share in the blessings of the Father.

Let us remember these things and hold them in our hearts. Praise be to God who loves us with a fierce kind of love. May we celebrate the end and look forward to the beginning. And in our experiences, may we remember to give thanks to the One who continues to bless us. **Amen.**

Blessings for a Great New Year!

Pastor Joe

Prayer Corner

Sunday November 26, 2017

17 Statements of Gratitude

"Thank you, God for the times You have said "no." They have helped me depend on You so much more.

Thank you, God, for unanswered prayer. It reminds me that You know what's best for me, even when my opinion differs from Yours.

Thank You, Lord, for the things you have withheld from me. You have protected me from what I may never realize.

Thank You, God, for the doors You have closed. They have prevented me from going where You would rather not have me go.

Thank you, Lord, for the physical pain You've allowed in my life. It has helped me more closely relate to Your sufferings on my behalf.

Thank you, Lord, for the alone times in my life. Those times have forced me to lean in closer to You.

Thank you, God, for the uncertainties I've experienced. They have deepened my trust in You.

Thank You, Lord, for the times You came through for me when I didn't even know I needed a rescue.

Thank You, Lord, for the losses I have experienced. They have been a reminder that You are my greatest gain.

Thank You, God, for the tears I have shed. They have kept my heart soft and mold-able.

Thank You, God, for the times I haven't been able to control my circumstances. They have reminded me that You are sovereign and on the throne.

Thank You, God, for those people in my life whom You have called home to be with You. Their absence from this earth keeps my heart longing for heaven.

Thank You, God, that I have an inheritance in the heavenly places...something that this world can never steal from me and I could never selfishly squander.

Thank You, God, for the greatest gift You could ever give me: forgiveness through Your perfect Son's death on the cross on my behalf.

Thank You, God, for the righteousness You credited toward me, through the death and resurrection of Jesus. It's a righteousness I could never earn or attain on my own.

Thank You, Father, that You know me, You hear me, and You see my tears. Remind me through difficult times that You are God, You are on the throne, and You are eternally good.

And thank You, Lord, not only for my eternal salvation, but for the salvation You afford every day of my life as You save me from myself, my foolishness, my own limited insights, and my frailties in light of Your power and strength."

- Cindy McMenamin, Author



December WNO Menu

11/29 BBQ Brisket,
Baked Beans, Salad, Rolls &
Butter, Mock Eclair

12/6 Chicken Enchilada
Soup, Snicker Apple Salad,
Brownies

12/13 Chef Surprise!

Activities and Events

Youth Dinner Schedule

- 11/26 Platero Family
- 12/3 Ten Pins Special Event
- 12/10 Potluck and Caroling
- 12/17 Happy Birthday Jesus Party
- 12/24 No Evening Youth Group Meeting
- 12/31 No Evening Youth Group Meeting



Our next craft night is Tuesday, December 5th. We meet in the choir room from 5 to 8:30 PM. Bring your favorite craft and some snacks to share and join in the fun and fellowship.



We are taking orders for Poinsettias. Order forms are on the welcome table in the Narthex. Poinsettias can be purchased in honor or memory of someone or in the spirit of Christmas. Each plant is \$10.00. We will use them to decorate the Church for the Christmas season. You can take your plant home after service on Christmas Eve.

Greenery Fluffing...

Even though it may seem like it is a long way away, Christmas really is just around the corner. We have all the Christmas décor down from the attic and have “fluffed” the bows and greenery. Many thanks to everyone who helped with that. Now, on Monday, November 27th and Tuesday, November 28th, the Christmas trees need to be put in place so that we are ready for the “Hanging of the Greens” worship service. If you are available to help during the day on Monday or Tuesday, please let Kim P. know. All help is greatly appreciated, as getting the Church ready for the Holiday is a big job!



It's Almost Here...

Our annual Hanging of the Greens service and Potluck Brunch with Santa takes place on Sunday, December 3rd, starting at 10 AM. You won't want to miss this great time of worship and fellowship, where we decorate for Christmas and then share a meal with a special visit by Santa Clause himself. Please bring a potluck dish to share and join in the fun starting at 10 AM, on December 3rd.



The youth will meet at Ten Pins in Rio Rancho at 2 PM for an afternoon of bowling, following our Potluck with Santa.

RRUMC Women's Ministry Christmas Cookie Exchange!

Friday, December 8th, 6 PM
All women are invited to our Christmas Cookie Exchange. Please bring a container, 6 dozen homemade cookies, and your recipe printed on 8 ½ by 11 paper. We will have food, a devotional with table discussion and fun take home gifts! Plus, you will get to try lots of homemade cookies and take home the recipes!



FAMOUS QUOTATIONS

The best way to face life is to be honest about death. God will have all, or none, serve Him or fall down before Baal, Bel, or Belial: either be hot, or cold; God doth despise, abhor, and spew out all Neutralities.

Robert Herrick

I am especially important to me, because I'm the only one that I have. After I have used up me, I have nothing left. I had better be sure that I choose wisely when I give myself up to a grand obsession.

J. Ellsworth Kalas

Progress is our ability to complicate simplicity.

Thor Heyerdahl

A Quarter For Jesus?

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, 'You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it.' Then he thought, 'Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet. When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, 'Here, you gave me too much change..' The driver, with a smile, replied, 'Aren't you the new preacher in town?' 'Yes' he replied. 'Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday. When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, 'Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter. 'Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians, and will put us to the test! Always be on guard -- and remember -- You carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself 'Christian.' Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions.

Watch your actions; they become habits..

Watch your habits; they become character.

Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

December Anniversaries

And Birthdays

Anniversaries

BERDIN, Sam & Dorothy	12/16
MORYOSEF, Dory	12/16
LEWIS, Shelley	12/17
MACDONALD, Joe & Cazandra	12/19
GALLAHER, Walt & Betty	12/26

Birthdays

ANDERSON, Marcia	12/03
SHEPHERD, Betty	12/04
SORENSEN, Dennis	12/07
WISE JR, Tony	12/07
SECHREST, Mamie	12/09
COOLEY, Star	12/10
CHAVEZ, Pat	12/11
MCCONNELL, Lee	12/13
MOELLER, Jeff	12/14
KOFCHUR, Phoenix	12/17
ROGGE, Pam	12/21
BAIR, Ken	12/26
SEEFELDT, Susan	12/26
BRUNK, Judy	12/28
HILBORN, Symphany	12/28
LEGGIERO, Theresa	12/30
MCCONNELL, James	12/30
VEACH, Rebecca	12/30
HOLLAND (WEST), Megan	12/31



Thank you for your thoughtful answers to
the *Where in the World*
is Your Heart for Missions? Survey

The survey results show the third greatest areas of need our church should address are equally, Hunger and Poverty. Storehouse West is mentioned as a favorite organization working on these needs, and it's one that our church family already strongly supports through nonperishable food donations and clothing donations for children and teens.

The second greatest area of need is Education. A favorite organization is Maggie Cordova Elementary School, which RRUMC supports throughout the school year with healthy snacks for Project Backpack. Read West and Oasis Intergenerational Tutoring are mentioned as volunteer opportunities.

The survey shows that, by far, the greatest area of need is Homelessness. Saint Martin's Hospitality Center in Albuquerque is mentioned as a favorite organization working on this need. RRUMC recently began supporting The Dignity Fund which provides homeless students in Rio Rancho with items like hygiene products and fees for extracurricular activities.

The third most chosen age group whose needs our church should address is Seniors.

Favorite programs that help adults are One Day at a Time Ministry; a halfway house for addicted adults, and UMCOR.

The second most chosen age groups are equally, Babies and Children and college age Young Adults. Favorite organizations are Care Net Pregnancy Center in Rio Rancho, St. Felix Pantry, PB&J Family Services, and the Wesley Foundation.

The most chosen age group whose needs our church should address is Teens. Favorite organizations already working with this group are McCurdy Ministries and RRUMC Youth.

**November Anniversaries
And Birthdays**

Anniversaries (none on record)

Birthdays

HOLDER, Robert	11/02
COOLEY, Kat	11/10
WELCH, Jean	11/14
SELOVER, Avery	11/15
STEUCK, Michael	11/19
DOUGLAS, Cindy	11/20
O'SICKEY, Lily	11/20
LONG, Tom	11/21
LEWIS, Ryan	11/23
SELOVER, Shelly	11/23
BALTZ, Samantha	11/26
BRIGHAM, Priscilla	11/26
LONG, Nikki	11/26
VAUGHN, Elisa	11/30



**We hope you survived Thanksgiving
and Black Friday!!**

The RRUMC Scintillating Seniors
Chose Joe's Pasta House for one of
their group outings. Watch for
future get-togethers and join in.

