



# 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

*This is the time of the year when the hobgoblins and all sorts of costumed young (and old) ones are running about. Be extra careful when you are driving and watch out for all these Halloween characters.*

## The Ministries That Go Unnoticed

This past Saturday I had to make a quick trip up to the church. When I opened the door I was shocked as I heard the sound of voices in the sanctuary. When I went in to see who was there I saw several people gathered around a big ladder. It appeared that our lights in the sanctuary needed to be replaced. As a pastor, it is one of those scenes that you keep in your soul forever. The kind of moment when God’s presence is felt and noticed. All you hear is the laughter of community and absolute joy for this sacred space.

This is the kind of service that motivates me and encourages me as a pastor. I am talking about the ministries that are behind the scenes. They do not seek any accolades in front of the congregation. Without these special ministries, those of us who stand in front of the entire body would not be able to manage well. We would be in the dark without any sound nor visual aids nor refreshments nor...the list continues. This leads me to a question, “How do you serve God by offering an unknown gift?” It could be in a private conversation with someone or providing a meal to a person. Service takes all forms. I want to encourage you to reach out into the world around you and silently and unselfishly share the love of Christ with someone who might be desperate to hear the Good News.

There is a church that I served that had an incredible food pantry. What distinguished it above other pantries was the openness and non-judgmental atmosphere that greeted everyone who served and everyone who was served. The only requirement to receive assistance was proof of residency in the county. There were no expectations to attend a church service or read a pamphlet. There was just an openness to make a difference in the community.

Many times hope does not come in the form of words. It can be a kind gesture or an unexpected gift. Christ, our hope, can come to us in ways that are bold and incredibly grand. The Divine can also come in a form that is softer than a whisper. Whatever way God comes, let us be open to experience the majesty of that which is greater than who we are. Just like our light bulbs, let us be changed.

Blessings,

*Pastor Joe*

# Prayer Corner

Sunday, October 29, 2017

## Staying in Sync with God

from *My Winning Words Daily Devotion*

Prayer is what gives Christ followers the power to live lives that are pleasing to our Master; the power to live and move and be rooted, grounded, and established in His all-encompassing love. If we skip one day, we quickly notice that our lives are out of sync. If we skip two days, those closest to us begin to see the effects of a neglected prayer life. By the third day, it is evident to all that we are not in harmony with the Spirit of the Living Lord. Our life-songs become dull and flat; we miss the high and low notes; and we don't begin and end on cue. As a result of our failure to pray we are not walking in rhythm with God, self, or neighbor. Every failure in life is ultimately a failure to pray! All we have and all we are flows out of our relationship with God. Yet sadly, rather than being mindful of our need to spend quality time alone with God, many of us offer flimsy excuses for not engaging in the daily practice of prayer. We say that we don't have time to dismiss ourselves from the crowd so that we can pray. After all, we tell ourselves, time spent with the Lord in prayer isn't part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century life. Our busy days don't allow us to begin our days in prayer, and heaven knows we are much too tired at night to stay awake long enough to engage in significant prayer. There is no quiet time in our hectic days, no time to be alone and pray. However, as spiritual giants throughout the ages can attest, the busier our lives are, the more we need extended times of prayer. Prayer is what gives us the power to accomplish the tasks set before us with grace and harmony. Time spent with God is our source of inspiration, imagination, and motivation. Today is the day to be faithful to the practice of prayer—and to enjoy the blessing of living in sync with the Spirit and in harmony with God.



Grace & Peace,  
Judy Brunk

# November

## Anniversaries & 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, Elissa     | 11/30 |

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"Blog unto others as you would have them blog unto you.  
Spam not, lest ye be spammed! Though I surf through the  
valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no virus..."

# Activities and Events

## Youth Dinner Schedule

- 10/29 Fall Festival – Pizza Party
- 11/5 MacDonald Family
- 11/12 Weir Family
- 11/19 Hilborn Family



## Our very own...Fall Festival



is Today, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 3 to 5 PM

Our annual Fall Festival & Trunk-or-Treat will be held today, from 3 to 5 PM. There will be Trunk-or-Treat in the parking lot and lots of fun carnival games in the fellowship hall and youth room. Grab your costume and all the kids you can find and join in the fun! (Thanks to everyone who donated candy for prizes. We couldn't do it without you!)

## Craft Fair!



Our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 3 PM. We invite everyone to come shopping from a variety of over 40 crafters, all with handmade items!

The youth will have breakfast and lunch items available to purchase from the kitchen. Our Women's Ministry will have their cookbooks for sale and the Quilters will raffle a quilt. Be sure and invite all your friends and family! On Friday, we will need help preparing the Church. We start at 9:00 AM. The more hands, the quicker we are finished. We also need help on Saturday afternoon, starting at about 3:30 PM to put the Church back together. **There is a form on the welcome table for helpers. If you can help in any way, please fill out the form and put it in the offering plate. Thanks in advance!**



Our next Craft Night is Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## Christmas Poinsettia Sale

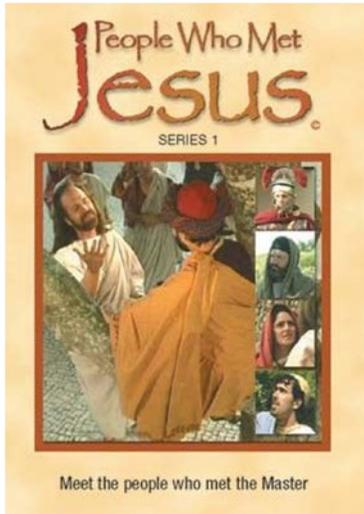


We start taking orders for Poinsettias on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Order forms will be on the welcome table. Poinsettias can be purchased in honor or memory of someone or in the spirit of Christmas. Each plant is \$10.00. We will use them to decorate the Church for the Christmas season and you can take your plant home after service on Christmas Eve.

## Getting Ready for Christmas

Even though it may seem like it is a long way away, Christmas really is just around the corner. We will get the Christmas décor from the attic and “fluff” the bows and greenery on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, after worship services. On Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, the Christmas trees need to be put in place so that we are ready for the “Hanging of the Greens” worship service on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. If any adults are available to help during the day on Monday or Tuesday, please let Kim Peterson know. All help is greatly appreciated, as getting the Church ready for the Holiday is a big job!





## New Wednesday Night Study

In the Gospels, the main story is the life of Jesus, but there are also smaller stories about fishermen and Pharisees and tax collectors. In this

study, we will try to get to know Jesus better by looking at the stories of the people who met Him. There is no study book or homework required. The study and the discussion will start at 6:10 p.m. after the Wednesday Night Out meal and finish in time for choir practice.

### Famous Quotations

*Some people are born for Halloween, and some are just counting the days until Christmas.*

*Stephen Graham Jones*

*The third-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the majority. The second-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the minority. The first-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking.*

*A. Milne*

*Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.*

*Helena Keller*



The Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are available in the Narthex. After you have filled the shoebox, place a \$9 check in the shoebox made out to Samaritan's Purse. No cash please. Please place the filled shoeboxes by the railing in the front of the church. The boxes must be returned by November twelfth.

### Ministry Opportunity

The Worship Committee has openings for committee members. This is a great ministry opportunity. The Worship Committee meets quarterly to plan the upcoming worship services and events. There are many different things that committee members can do. You will choose what you are interested in doing. If you would like to find out what the opportunities are please contact me, Kathy McConnell, @ [\(505\) 974-3965](tel:5059743965).

Please prayerfully consider this ministry as we are working on building this committee to help make the Worship Experience at RRUMC the very best it can be.

Thank you.

In Service,  
Kathy McConnell,  
Chair of the Worship Committee