

“LA LUMINARIA” — SPRING, 2024

GRACE NOTES by Pastor Linda

Jesus said, “*I am the Light of the World.*” --John 8: 12

Lent, the 40-day season of penance and preparation for Easter, reminds us of a few important things, namely:

- 1) **Our lives are not our own: they’re a gift from God**
- 2) **Our time on earth is brief**
- 3) **We need seasons like Lent to remind us what matters most**

When I think of Lent, I think of its Latin meaning, ‘*to lengthen*’ (as in the ‘*lengthening of days*’ becoming brighter between now and Easter — Christ’s resurrection being, if you will, the brightest day of the year!

We need seasons like Lent to inspire us to ‘get back to basics’, and the ‘bedrock’ of our lives—remembering the hope and promises that are ours in Christ Jesus, and the purposes to which God calls us.

I hope this Lent will be that kind of Holy Time for you. I **hope you’ll join us Sundays in Lent* for a time of silent prayer before Worship** (8:50-9:10 am in sanctuary), Adult Study 9:15 am, **and a new sermon series.**

Bring a friend or neighbor! If we each invite one person to attend Worship with us, our congregation will double. Let’s pray it will double not only in numbers, but in God’s grace!

Wishing each of us a light filled journey to Easter! (*except 3/3)



LENT — EASTER CALENDAR:

Feb. 18: 1st Sunday in Lent: “Back to Basics”

Feb. 25: 2nd Sunday in Lent: “God First”

March 3: 3rd Sunday in Lent : Rev. Hannah Scalon, Guest Pastor
Hannah currently serves as Menaul School’s Chaplain

March 10: 4th Sunday in Lent: “Look Up!”
Daylight Savings begins (set clocks ahead one hour on Sat)

March 17: 5th Sunday in Lent: “Follow Jesus”

March 24: Palm Sunday: “Welcome God”

March 29: Good Friday Service: 3:00 pm in Sanctuary

March 31: Easter Sunday: ‘Sunrise Service’ in Garden at 8:00 am
Worship in Sanctuary 10am



PASTOR:

Linda

Clerk of Session:

Marsha

ELDERS:

John

Michael

Gayle

Phil

DEACONS:

Amber

Leanne

Jose

Melissa

Patty

Jack



MARSHA'S NOTE*

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3: 5-6

As a musician, I am always interested in reading about other musicians and what influences the words and music they create. I have several books that tell about the history and story behind various hymns. I enjoy going into the extra bedroom in my house where I do my morning devotionals. It is quiet and has many books from which I get inspiration along with my Bibles and hymnals. Here I listen for that still, small voice of God.

My grandmother had seven brothers who had a small publishing house. They would print paperback hymnals for use at revivals, tent meetings, and even for small churches. They also gave music lessons. My grandmother was also an influencer in my life because she encouraged my learning to play the piano and sing. Many times when I pray I start off singing a hymn to pull my thoughts and feelings together as I worship God. Recently, I was reading about a composer who was also influenced by a family member.

A young man named Daniel B. Towner inherited his father's love for music. His father was a vocalist and professor of music. Young Daniel began his career as a worship leader in a Methodist Church in New York state. Soon, he was traveling with the famous preacher, D.L. Moody, and singing at worship services. Around 1885 Daniel heard a young man's testimony about giving his life over to God by learning to "trust and obey." Daniel sent the story to a friend of his, Rev. J.H. Sammis, a Presbyterian Minister. Sammis composed a poem using the words "trust and obey." He sent the poem to Daniel, who put the words to music. The hymn "*Trust and Obey*" was first published in 1887.

I have sung this hymn since I was a child, and it is one of the first hymns I learned to play. Many times the words come to my mind while I am driving, praying, or listening to music. I have found comfort from the words especially during the past year. I am reminded that God is by my side whatever is happening around me. I only need to stop and listen for the words of comfort God whispers in my head.

*"When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word, what a glory he sheds on our way.
While we do His good will, He abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."*

*Marsha Bedell is Rio Grande's Director of Music



Feb. Birthdays: March Birthdays: April Birthdays:

Julia S., 2/1
 Sam P., 2/04
 Sam L., 2/12
 Marie M., 2/21

Carol Anne T., 3/3
 Marilyn L., 3/6
 Jack P., 3/14

Joyce T., 4/14
 Rev. Bob, 4/16
 Harriett M., 4/28
 Gayle M., 4/30

April Anniversaries:

Revs. Bob and Sue, April 7, 1972
 Mr. Jack and Mrs. Patty P., April 14, 1956
 Dr. Bharat and Amanda D., April 25, 2009



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Annual Reports for 2023 are due in the church office (or by email to riograndeabq64@gmail.com) **by Sunday, Feb. 25**

Session meets Sat., March 16, for a 10 am meeting in the church library

The All-Church Annual Meeting will be held, following worship, on Sunday, March 17, 2024 (*members your votes are needed, please make plans to attend!*). Light lunch served during meeting in Fellowship Hall.

A REMINDER:

If you are a chairperson or group leader, please email your 2023 Annual Report to Pastor Linda at the church email address—riograndeabq64@gmail.com or drop it off in the church office Sunday 2/25.

The 2024 Annual All Church Meeting is scheduled, after Worship, on Sunday, March 17th in Fellowship Hall. Light lunch will be served. All welcome (but, please note: only members can vote!)



Lent 2024 begins

Ash Wednesday

But, we will begin the 40-day Journey through Lent to Easter on Sunday, Feb. 18, with a new sermon series and a time of silent prayer in the sanctuary (8:50-9:10 am —Sundays in Lent)* before Adult Study.

Lent is a season of penance—to remember our mortality and God's faithfulness—and help us embrace what brings us closer to Christ & neighbor.

*except Sunday, March 3rd

JOIN US:

Good Friday, 3/29

3:00 pm

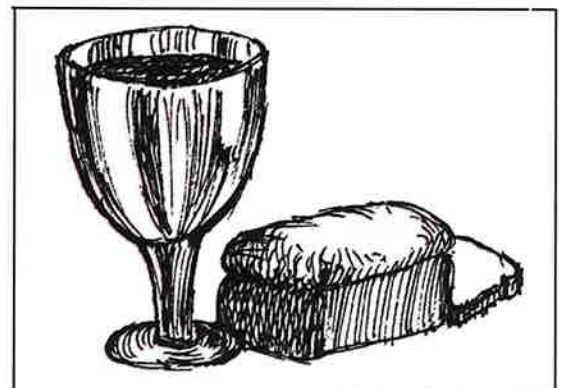
for Worship

in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, 3/31

'Sunrise Service', 8:00 am

in the Food Project garden *(followed by Coffee Fellowship)*





**A SERVICE OF WORSHIP
TO CELEBRATE THE LORD'S
RESURRECTION WILL BE HELD:**

**SUN., MARCH 31, 10:00 AM
IN RIO GRANDE CHURCH'S SANCTUARY**

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US!





to:

Ms. Marsha for her faithful service as Rio Grande's Clerk of Session/Music Dir.

Virginia Gaddis, serving many years as a Deacon, Elder, Gardner & faithful church member

Senor Ventura, who attends church with Richard and brought 50 packets of seeds for us to germinate for planting in the garden!

Marilyn and all who help with Rio Grande's Clothing Ministry
Weds./Fridays
9-11 am at church

Amber and Leanne, Deacons who keep weekly Coffee Fellowships going

Please pray to God for the following

Ray Bennett who went home to be with the Lord 10/29/24. We celebrated his almost 96 years with a Memorial Service on January 11, 2024; please pray for **Ron Bennett & his siblings**

Marilyn and John recovering from illness

Rev. Bob having Physical Therapy for an injured knee

Pastor Linda recovering from an injured knee

Rio Grande increasing in membership and God's grace in 2024!

Peace between nations

We give God thanks for the following:

Virginia Gaddis, who has served many decades as both Elder and Deacon at Rio Grande Presbyterian Church . *Thank you, Virginia!*

Amber and Leanne who help one another and the church serving as Rio Grande's most active Deacons

Phil, nominated to serve as Rio Grande's newest Elder (Phil has already been ordained a Deacon in Oregon) starting 3/16

Bill and Eileen's many visitors, beginning with Bill's sister-in-law, visiting from Louisiana, niece Ashley & Eileen's brothers

Tiffany in the Santa Fe Presbytery Office for helping us put Rio Grande's church newsletter, *La Luminaria*, online (after Bill and Eileen mailed it for years and years: thank you!)

Gayle's new full-time *remote* job (so she can work from home!); and her son, Seth's, new job with the US government in Ethiopia (that he would make many friends & feel at home there!)

John L. for his work on the Property Team and with the Rio Grande Food Project and Clothing Ministry

Sam L.'s successful 4th Annual Toy Drive and many "Thanks!" to everyone who contributed toys (given to food project clients before Christmas)