

“LA LUMINARIA” — SUMMER, 2024

GRACE NOTES by Pastor Linda

“The only constant in life is change” -Heraclitus

Last Fall in a retreat titled **“Holy Shift: Navigating Seismic Changes in the Church We Know”** Montreat Conference Center in Asheville, NC (who hosted the retreat) wrote, in the aftermath of COVID:

“As we gaze upon the pews, what do we notice? Who has returned to worship? Who has come, maybe, for the first time? Who has left? How will these new realities shape our programs, finances, and mission? What will it take for us to see these challenges as possibilities—a Holy Shift?”

As an old Buddhist monk once said, on a PBS special, “If I were to sit in this chair for the rest of my life one thing is sure: ‘I will change.’ Change is part of life. So, my prayer for all of us is: **May God help us keep faith, be resilient/creative, sharing Christ’s love in the midst of it!**”



PASTOR:

Pastor Linda

Clerk of Session:

Ms. Marsha

ELDERS:

Ms. Marsha

Ms. Gayle

Mr. Phil

Dr. Michael

DEACONS:

Ms. Amber

Mrs.Patty/Mr. Jack

Mrs.Melissa/Mr.Jose

Mrs. Leanne

SUMMER SUNDAYS

June 2 Communion Sunday Sermon: *“God Who Knows Us”*

June 9 Sermon: *“God Who Heals Us”*

June 16 Sermon: *“From Small Beginnings...”*

June 23 Sermon: *“Peace!”*

June 30: *4th of July Summer Worship Service w/ Marsha Bedell*

July 7 Communion Sunday Sermon: *“Faithful Places”*

July 14 Sermon: *“Worldly Ways”*

July 21 Sermon: *“God of Compassion”*

July 28 Sermon: *“God of the Hungry”*

August 4 Communion Sunday Sermon: *“God Who Nourishes Us”*

August 11 Sermon: *“The Living Bread”*

August 18 Sermon: *“Christ in Us”*

August 25 (5th Sunday) **Message** by Ms. Ann Williams*

Sept. 1 Communion Sunday: Rev. Hannah, *Guest Pastor*

Sept. 8: **Guest Speaker** (TBA)

**from Faith Comes by Hearing*



MARSHA'S NOTE*



"I was glad when they said unto me," Let us go into the house of the Lord." -Psalm 122:1

Independence Day

July 4th is always a busy and fun celebration. Many countries around the world have existed for hundreds of years and some have new names and governments. The United States celebrates their land and people with parades, picnics, and many favorite foods. We as Christians celebrate our nation's freedom to worship.

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." —Galatians 5:1

I am very thankful for the liberty we enjoy in our country. Most importantly, we celebrate the grace of Jesus. We share the freedom to be loved by God our Creator, free from the penalty of sin, free from our sense of unworthiness and death. Sometimes we forget to stand firm in our freedom. We think we have to do more or just give up on our efforts. Too many times we take a break from worship, prayer, and Bible study.

Celebrate these freedoms! Start each day with thankfulness and joy. Enjoy worshipping our Heavenly Father and gathering with our church family. Do not be a slave to negativity or give up on serving our Lord. Demonstrate your love for your freedom to be God's child.

**Marsha is Rio Grande's Music Director*

Good Ol' Summertime Singing Schedule

Come join us once-a-month, throughout the summer, to sing!

Thursday, June 27, 6:00 pm
Thursday, July 25, 6:00 pm
Thursday, August 22, 6:00 pm



We will meet in the sanctuary and sing some old favorites Thursdays, and, then, the following Sunday sing, together, in the sanctuary for Worship. **All welcome!**

Need more information? Talk with Marsha, Music Director.

What's Your Gift?

Share it with your Church Family!



Here's a Few Suggestions How:

Good Ol' Summer Singing Fellowship, monthly
(Talk with Marsha Bedell, Music Director)

Help with the Gently Used Clothing Ministry
Wednesdays & Fridays, 9-11 am
(Interested? Talk with Marilyn Landman, leader)

Start a study, craft or book group
(Several of us would still love to learn to quilt!)

Volunteer on a Team:

Worship meets 3rd Thursdays, starting in Fall
11:00 am, Library
(Talk with Ms. Marsha, Chairperson)

Property Team needs helping hands
(Talk with John, Chairperson)

Outreach to the Community
(Talk with Phil, Chairperson)

Garden *(talk w/ Kathi in food project
or email her at kathi@rgfp.org)*

Assist with Worship:
Serve as a Greeter, Liturgist, Acolyte
(Talk with Pastor Linda and/or Ms. Marsha)



Special Event

**We will celebrate July 4th
on Sunday, June 30, 10am
with Marsha Bedell.
Lunch served afterwards
in Fellowship Hall.**

ALL WELCOME !

Join Us for Worship Sunday, June 16, 2024

Father's Day — 10:00 am

*Followed by a special Coffee Fellowship for All the Men in the Church
and*

Worship with Us Sunday, August 25, 10:00 am

*with Ms. Ann Williams, from 'Faith Comes by Hearing'
Ann will be our Guest Speaker and tell us how this organization
has translated the Bible into 2,059 recorded languages
(as well as 300 of the 1,200 unrecorded languages of tribal people
around the world) so that 6.8 billion people can hear the Bible on audio.*

Should be interesting! All welcome.





'Adult Sunday Study'

Meets January—July

(with a break August 25– Sept.)

Time: 9:15—9:50 am

Rio Grande Church Library

We Study/Discuss the Weekly
Scripture (Lectionary) Readings
over Coffee — *All Welcome!*

Like to Garden?

Show up, outside, in the Gaddis and Rio Grande Food Project Gardens, any Wednesday and/or Friday, btw 9:00-11:00 am, to help with both gardens, and learn from Master Gardeners when they are there. Need more info? Email Kathi at the food project, at kathi@rgfp.org
All welcome!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

Rake D., June 13

Abby, June 24

Phil, Aug. 11

Ron, Aug. 21

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to:

John & Marilyn June 14

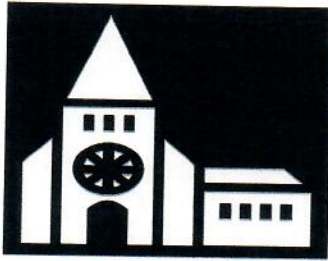
Robert & Carol , July 7

Bill & Eileen, July 15

Pastor Linda & Michael, Aug. 24

*Let us know if we, inadvertently, left out your important
summer dates!*





THANKS TO:

Amber, Deacon Co-Moderator, for making coffee and bringing breakfast burritos to share between services on Easter Sunday!

Leanne, Deacon Co-Moderator, who's helped (along with Amber) to prepare coffee and refreshments after Worship throughout the year!

Ron, who's maintained the church sign (and church) w/ repairs all year and sermon titles and dates for Worship

The new "Gaddis Garden" so-named in honor of Virginia who began it many decades ago; and which Kathi in the food project now manages

Thank you!

SHARING AND CARING: PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER Pg 6

Please pray to God for the following

Virginia Gaddis recently at Lovelace Hospital for strength

Rev. Bob for healing of his knee

The Marmon and YellowHorse families for Christ's peace

Caregivers needing patience, stamina, resources & respite

David Harper, who died early a.m., April 3, in Los Lunas.

For peace for him, his family, and rest in Christ (*David's Memorial Service will be here, Thurs., June 6, btw 2-4 pm*)

Fred Harper (David's brother) whose son is getting married, and whose brother-in-law Rick has endured brain/lung surgery

Rio Grande member, Richard, 77, in need of a quiet room in someone's house or a casita in which to live and rest

Young people wondering if 'God is real, and really loves them', and wisdom to discern their true calling/or vocation

Families in need of healing and reconciliation

People suffering in war zones and an end to warfare

We give God thanks for the following:

Marilyn and John's 66th Wedding Anniversary, and safe travel to Minnesota in May to attend John's sister, Milly's, Memorial Service and family reunion in North Dakota

Gayle's first grandbaby (to be born in July) to her son, Seth, currently in Ethiopia, and his fiancé, Brie

Kayla RGFP Co-Director's upcoming wedding this Sept. (9/14) to her fiancé Stephen. Gift?

James, on the staff of the Food Project, and he and his wife, Amanda's, 9-month-old baby, Audrey, who's just about to walk!

Rev. Dewey Johnson, serving this year, and part of next, as Interim Pastor at Rice Lake Presbyterian Church in Wisconsin (and for safe travel for he and his wife, Cheri, traveling between Wisconsin and New Mexico)

Upcoming News, Opportunities and Events:

Summer Coffee Fellowships will continue (while Deacons are on break till September). Two special *Luncheon* fellowships, following Worship, will be held on **Father's Day, Sunday June 16** (with Marsha and Pastor Linda hosting) **and after our 4th of July Worship Service Sunday, June 30th** (with Marsha and Marilyn hosting). Session members will host simple Coffee Fellowships but you're invited to bring something!

Like to sing? Talk with Marsha Bedell, Rio Grande's Music Director. She will host a "Good Ol' Summer Singing Fellowship" once-a-month on Thursday evenings (see page 2 for the schedule) starting at 6:00 pm. *All are welcome!*

The next 1st Tuesday Luncheon will be held at Monroe's (4th Street/ Mountain) at 11:30 am, Tuesday, June 4. *Everyone is welcome!*

Deacons, plan to attend a Luncheon, after Worship, August 18, to plan the Fall Coffee Fellowship Schedule. *All deacons are invited!*



A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DAVID PALMER HARPER will be held Thursday, June 6, 2:00—4:00 pm, here, at Rio Grande Presby Church

