

# Rinn Newsletter 2/26/26-3/4/26

## From the Minister's Mac

### "The Gospel of Nicodemus"

Did you know that there are several gospels that didn't make it into our Bible? While we are familiar with the four that made the cut, there are others out there that were not selected to be canonized. The Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Mary Magdalene, and the Gospel of Philip (among others) were all discovered at the Nag Hamadi dig in 1945, a short while before the Dead Sea Scrolls were found near Qumran.

The texts listed above are Gnostic texts, from an ancient religious sect who believed that knowledge rather than faith led to salvation. This was contrary to orthodox teaching, then and now. Early church leaders did everything they could to wipe out what they considered heresy and did a pretty good job of it, although forms of Gnosticism still exist today in various regions of the world.

These texts were excluded from the Bible because they contained questionable theology and stories, such as a secret message given by Jesus (Gospel of Thomas), secret knowledge possessed by Mary Magdalene (Gospel of Mary Magdalene), and a physical relationship between Mary Magdalene and Jesus (Gospel of Philip).

Then there's the Gospel of Nicodemus, also non-canonical, because of its late arrival and questionable authorship. However, the Gospel of Nicodemus had an active circulation life for centuries and was influential in forming some of the theology of the early Church. It's a detailed account of the trial of Jesus, relating his many miracles, with Nicodemus and others speaking on behalf of Jesus, trying to get him off the hook with the Pharisees and Pontius Pilate. It also includes Jesus descending to Hades to collect the souls who died before the resurrection, something we still commemorate in the Apostle's Creed:

"I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; **he descended into hell**; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead."

I know pastors who preach on or teach the Gnostic Gospels and other non-canonical texts, or even what are called the "extra-canonical" texts found in the Catholic Bible (like Tobit or the Maccabees). While I find reading these ancient

texts interesting and sometimes instructive, for some reason I prefer to stick to Scripture found in the Bible for the Sunday message. There is so much there that I believe you could preach for many years and still not have covered everything.

I'll have to ask our friend Rev. Warren Napier about that.

This Sunday, we will look at Nicodemus' first encounter with Jesus, where he gets tripped up focusing on the literal meaning of being "born anew." But, if you read the Gospel of Nicodemus (which you can find online or in the book "The Lost Books of the Bible"), you will find that this last major text to mention him gives us a Nicodemus who went from groping around in the dark trying to find his way along his faith journey, to being willing to risk everything in the light of day, to testify on behalf of Jesus Christ. The Gospel of Nicodemus may actually be fictional, as some have argued, but even as a parable, it can give us hope that we, too, might learn to be as brave as Nicodemus.

Food for thought on your Lenten journey, delivered with love from your Bible-nerd pastor.

See you in church,  
Lin

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16**

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## Refreshments After Worship

March 1-Sue Oliver & Linda Rinn

March 8-Aleta & Val

March 15-Kermit

March 22-Paula Clapp



**\*\*\*The sign-up board is in the narthex at the welcome table. Note that you don't need to provide a full spread that can double as brunch for everyone in the church; some cookies, along with one or two options for those trying to cut down on sweets, is sufficient.**

If you have any questions, or need to change your date, please feel free to call or text Mary Margaret at 573-368-1390 or call the church office at 303-776-1578 (Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-noon)

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## **This Week at Rinn**

For more upcoming events, see our online calendar [HERE](#).

### **Monday 3/2**

7:00pm Monday Night  
Lenten Study (Zoom)

### **Wednesday 3/4**

9:00am Brunch Bunch Breakfast at Doug's Diner  
10:30am Bible Study at Bev Ramsey's House  
7:00pm Cowboy Fellowship

### **Friday 3/6**

7:00pm New Hope AA

### **Saturday 3/7**

12:00pm Backpack Stuffing at Justin's

### **Sunday 3/8**

8:00am Adult Bible Study  
8:15am Men's Koffee Klub  
9:30am Worship Service

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## **~ Rinn Worship Service ~**

**In Person and Livestreamed on Facebook**

**March 1, 2026 ~ 9:30am**

Scripture & Message

**March 1, 2026**

**John 3:1-17**

**"Rebirth"**

Livestreamed on Facebook:

To access our Facebook page, click [HERE](#).

To follow along with the service, the Order of Worship is  
on the church [website](#)

## OUR LENTEN AND EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE AT RINN

### SUNDAY WORSHIP DURING LENT:

- 3/1 John 3:1-17** Do we have trouble understanding the lessons of Jesus? How much can we relate to the confusion of Nicodemus?
- 3/8 John 4:5-42** Jesus offers a new concept of bread and water, and a new kind of life! Special Music by Closer Walk.
- 3/15 John 9:1-41** Would we witness about Jesus if we knew we would be run out of town, like the blind man? Special Music by Blaine Lee on Bagpipes.
- 3/22 John 11:1-45** Transformative faith calls us to join Martha's confession and proclaim, "Yes, Lord, I believe!" Special Music by Rinn Choir
- 3/29 Matthew 21:1-11** PALM SUNDAY! Jesus enters Jerusalem and many wonder who Jesus is. Special Music by Rinn Choir.
- 4/1 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE — 7PM: John 13:1-16, 31b-35**  
Tonight, we take on the role Jesus told us to fill — that of a servant — by washing one another's feet or hands. No communion will be served at this service.  
Special Music: by Shelly Anderson, Janice Bachmann and Rhonda Ritter
- 4/2 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE — 7PM**  
"At the Foot of the Cross" — A Drama for Good Friday by Rev. Lin Cheek  
As events unfold after Jesus' arrest, his mother Mary, Mary Magdalene and Joseph of Arimathea try to comfort one another. The service includes special music and Scripture.
- 4/5 EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE — 6:30 AM: Colossians 3:1-4**  
Focus: Remember, you have died in Christ and are raised with Christ.  
Hallelujah!!  
Special Music: by Shelly Anderson

**POTLUCK BREAKFAST BETWEEN THE TWO SERVICES,  
BEGINNING AT 7:30 AM**

**TRADITIONAL EASTER SERVICE — 9:30 am: John 20:1-18**  
Focus: How do we respond to transformation? Do we leave? Believe? Proclaim? Or all of the above? Communion will be served at this service.  
Special Music: by Rinn Choir and Scott Anderson

# **MONDAY NIGHT LENTEN STUDY**

## **A Four-Week Study via Zoom**

### **“GIFTED & TALENTED:**

### **Discover and Use Your Spiritual Gifts”**

**3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23 at 7:00 PM**

Using Rev. Jeremy Scott’s book, “Gifted & Talented: Discover and Use Your Spiritual Gifts,” we will explore using the gifts we know we possess and developing gifts we might not have discovered yet! This study is based on Scripture and includes an AI Gifts Assessment of your Spiritual Gifts. See Rev. Lin to sign up and get a book.

3/2 Lenten Study Week One — You have a part to play!

In Romans 12:1-13, Paul encourages believers to use their gifts. He also warns, “don’t think of yourself more highly than you ought,” but Rev. Scott suggests, “our modern problem is often the opposite: we think too little of ourselves and our gifts. We are all gifted. The first step is to recognize and name those gifts.”

3/9 Lenten Study Week Two — The Speaking Gifts

In 1 Corinthians 14:1-12, Paul is providing space and opportunity for people to grow and share their gifts. This week, we explore the gifts of Prophecy, Teaching, and Exhorting and Look at practical ways we build up, clarify, and challenge one another in daily life.

3/16 Lenten Study Week Three — The Action Gifts

In the Gospel of John, Chapter 13:12-20, Jesus demonstrates the power of servant Leadership. This week we explore the gifts of Serving, Giving and Leading, and discuss how they are expressed through simple kindness, practical generosity, and servant-hearted Influence.

3/23 Lenten Study Week Four — The Heart and the How

In the Gospel of John, Chapter 8:1-11, Jesus stops a stoning and, perhaps more miraculously for his time, does not condemn the woman awaiting her fate. This week, we explore the core gift of Mercy as the choice for reconciliation over retribution, and to synthesize the entire book’s content into a practical, actionable plan for living out our gifts in every area of life.

To sign up for the Lenten Study please email Rev. Lin Cheek at [revlincheek@gmail.com](mailto:revlincheek@gmail.com)

# Camp Buckhorn Registration is Open

[Camp Buckhorn](#), the Methodist summer camp west of Fort Collins, is open for registration. If you have children, grandchildren, or other kids who are close to you who are entering the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grades, it's a great experience and a lot of fun! The UMW offers scholarships to send the kids. Kids can pick whichever session is most convenient for them and their families. Talk to Sharon Goldade for more information.



## Daylight Savings Time Begins

**Don't forget to turn your clocks an hour forward after midnight on Saturday March 7th.**

## Bowling Sunday April 19, 2026

On April 19th, Sharon Goldade will be taking us all bowling! Hang around after church, and we'll have a pizza lunch before heading to [Centennial Lanes in Longmont](#) from 12:00pm to 2:00pm for an afternoon of fun. (This event is for everyone ages 2-106 :)



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# Update on Noah's Community Outreach

## DATE CHANGE!!!

Backpack stuffing is now planned for **Saturday, March 7, at noon.** Come on to Justin's place! Justin will cook a main dish, please bring sides if you want to. We will eat together and then make quick work of the Backpacks.

Betsy

[bfoushee@hotmail.com](mailto:bfoushee@hotmail.com)



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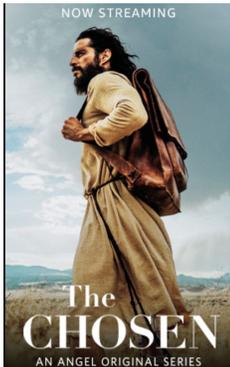
## “Brunch Bunch” Bible Study

**Wednesdays**

Breakfast at Doug's Diner( hwy 66) at 8:45 a.m.

Study at Bev Ramsey's house at 10:30 a.m.

Join us weekly for breakfast and a discussion of our faith.



## Movie Night at Rinn

Please join us every 2nd and 4th Thursday of each Month at 7:00pm.  
The next movie night is March 12th and 26th  
If you have any questions,  
Please contact Shelly Anderson.

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## Adult Bible Study

**Sundays at 8:00 am**

We are currently studying Adam Hamilton's Making Sense of the Bible and Karen Armstrong's A History of God. Please join us for engaging conversations each Sunday. All are welcome!

# Cowboy Fellowship 7:00pm Wednesday Night's at Rinn UMC



**March 4, 1016**  
**Sherl Cederburg**

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## Colorado Front Range District Gathering 2026 February 28, 2026

Please join us for the annual Colorado Front Range District Gathering on Saturday February 28, 2026 from 8:30am-3:00pm.

Broomfield United Methodist Church  
545 W 10th Ave  
Broomfield, CO 80020



**GOD'S KALEIDOSCOPE**

[Registration is OPEN!!!](#)

Go to link for more information.  
**Register by 3:00pm today  
February 26th or you can  
register on site.**

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## In Our Prayers

### **COMFORT**

- For those affected by the fires in Northeast CO.
- For those in war torn areas, and for those experiencing violence on their streets.
- Travel mercies for all those on the road in this cold and windy weather.
- For Diana Murray as she attends her daughter's funeral this weekend.
- For Colleen on the loss of her son.

### **HEALING**

- For Wayne's Aunt Linda. She was doing better but now is not. Prayers for her, for the family and for the hospice team.
- Healing prayers for Jenny and Rusty's niece April, who has cancer.
- For Steve who had his foot amputated, and for all who are dealing with diabetes.
- For Amber and Jeff for continued healing after spinal surgery.
- Aleta's brother who was diagnosed with cancer, and all those suffering from cancer .
- Patty, who fell and needs an MRI.
- For Annie's son Matthew for continued healing after surgery.
- For Scott who is recovering from shingles and Bels Palsy.
- For Genell's son Dave who has cancer on his ear and lip.
- For Kerry who is struggling with Chemo.
- for Toni who is having trouble eating and is awaiting tests to discover the cause.

### **THANKSGIVING**

- Bruce and Jan give thanks and are grateful for all the prayers for Amber and Jeff –Amber's surgery went well-recovery will take time.
- Ashley starts phlebotomy school this weekend.
- Mary gives thanks that son Chris found a home in Dacono.
- For the Catholic Church fish fry on Friday's.

If anyone needs to be taken off or added to this list please email the church office at [Info@rinnumc.org](mailto:Info@rinnumc.org).

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## March Birthdays



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|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Linda Napier    | 18 Bonnie Clark    |
| 3 Fred Skates     | 22 Kathy Wolff     |
| 4 Genell Hulstrom | 23 Hayden Oliver   |
| 5 Tory Hulstrom   | 24 Melody Johnson  |
| 9 Megan Vinson    | 25 Jody Collier    |
| 9 Debby Perry     | 25 Gillian Chapman |
| 10 Abby Goetze    | 26 Morgan Boisen   |
| 17 JR Trujillo    | 27 Elsie Newman    |
| 17 Andrew Kemnetz | 31 Dave Knowlton   |

## Happy March Anniversary To...

If you or someone you know has a March Anniversary, Please let the church office know. [info@rinnumc.org](mailto:info@rinnumc.org)

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## Rinn United Methodist Church Leadership

The Administrative Council meets on the third Thursday of every month. Everyone is welcome to attend. Our leaders who keep your church running smoothly are listed below:

Chair of Church Council: Janice Bachman

Lay Leader: Bonnie Clark

United Methodist Women: Sharon Goldade

Treasurer: Sue Mercer

Finance Secretary: Steve Sterkel

Finance Chair: Janice Bachmann

Nominations: Rev. Lin Cheek

Worship Committee: Betsy Foushee

Office Manager: Julie Stirm

Audio/Visual Tech Chair: Wayne Vinson

SPR Chair: Janice Bachmann

Members: Eric Presnall, Linda Rinn,  
Scott Lawrence, Diana Murray, Dave Boyd,  
Mike Carr, Rusty Goetz