



Update from Native American Ministries April 2021

You are receiving this update because you have an interest in or support one or more of the Native American Ministries congregations within the Reformed Church in America. This combined update will share quarterly updates from the five congregations to share with you the work God is doing through your support. Know that each letter may not include updates from every church. Thank you for your partnership in mission!

Apache Reformed Church

Since we've not been having an actual church in the church building, we still are having Zoom church. That's been great since we reach people that normally can't attend our regular church. We've had people from out of town and out of state join us on Zoom church! The pastor leading our Zoom church is an assistant pastor at another local church, but he's been our pulpit supply for many years. We've been posting our service to Facebook on the Apache Reformed Church page. We will be having the Lord's Supper on Easter with everyone bringing their grape juice and crackers to Zoom church. We will miss not having an Easter Egg hunt for the kids and everyone else, or the dinner we usually have after the Easter service.

We did get together to pack snack bags for Christmas and two sisters delivered those bags to our former attendees, even from years ago. They told them, "We still think of you as Church Family!" We had someone reply that her mom cried because we still thought of her as family!

We don't know for sure when we'll get back to attending in the actual church building since COVID-19 has hit us Natives hard. But keep praying for us to get back into church and to grow our fellowship!



A photo from a past Easter celebration

Jicarilla Apache Reformed Church

The Jicarilla Apache Reformed Church has exciting news: We are meeting in person again! The tribe permitted for us to resume services in late February. The COVID-19 cases on the reservation are extremely few, and the tribe has vaccinated over 60 percent of the population! Both Brad and Robin are fully vaccinated, and we are all delighted to gather in person for worship.

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.

This year of COVID-19 has left a permanent mark on the tribe and the Jicarilla Apache Reformed Church. The tribe has lost approximately 17 members to the disease. Many of them were native speakers of the Jicarilla language; their deaths are an enormous loss to the community. One of the last deaths to the disease was a beloved member of our congregation and our church secretary. She was a close friend of the Kautz family, inviting them to camp with her and sewing their daughter's first Abaachii dress. Her loss will be felt for a very long time.

Please pray for the community and for the church to heal from their losses. Pray for the limitations of the number of worshippers to be safely removed. And pray that we can begin youth programming again soon.

