



2024 Year in Review

Jicarilla Apache Reformed Church/Brad Kautz

A glimpse at what your support made possible:

The most significant way in which your generosity makes a difference on the reservation of the Jicarilla Apache Nation, where the ministry is located, is you make it possible for the ministry to have a full-time pastor. In addition to our pastor planning, leading worship, and preaching each week, Brad has a significant visitation and pastoral care ministry. He visits anyone from the community who may be in the hospital or nursing home, regularly going to nursing homes in four communities that are 1-2 hours away from town. Between hospitals, nursing homes, and visits and counseling in the community, both of which he does for church members and non-members, he had over 400 pastoral care contacts in 2024. He also officiated 22 funerals, all of which were for non-members and therefore excellent opportunities to point non-Christians to the hope and comfort of the gospel.

A second way in which your support was a blessing this year was in providing curriculum, snacks, and other materials for a VBS. Historically all of this, and the great majority of the people serving in a VBS ministry here, has been provided by mission groups to the reservation. This year no group was able to travel to Dulce for VBS and several of our members decided to put one on by themselves. We were able to serve 35 children, some from our congregation and some from other churches in our community.



Praise God for 110 years of ministry.



Challenges of 2024

One ongoing challenge, which has probably been present since the founding of our congregation in 1914, is people hanging on to traditional Apache spiritual practices and navigating Christianity at the same time. This is quietly present, to a degree, within the congregation but more evident when reaching outside the congregation, such as in officiating funerals for non-Christians, where we have to be clear about what practices are allowed in the church and which ones are not, due to their explicit non-Christian nature.

A second challenge is that there seems to be an increase in the number of people who believe they can be Christians and either minimally connected or not affiliated in any way with a church. This has long been present in the community but is now also found among a few of our professing members. They seem to not see the value in gathering together to praise, to pray, and to sit under the Word, or to serve God through active participation in the ministry of the congregation.

Please Pray

Two prayer needs come to mind. First, is that our congregation would continue to bear witness to the good news and true hope that is only gained by faith in the Lord Jesus. Second, in partnership with another local congregation, we are just beginning a weekly ministry to youth in grades 6-12. This is the first ongoing youth ministry we've been involved with as a congregation since prior to the pandemic. Please pray that the Lord provides what we need for the ministry and that he uses it to draw youth to himself.