

*News from the
First United Methodist Church of Mexico
April, May and June 2022*

A message from Pastor Guerschom Saint Ange

Dear Brethren,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the redeemer of our lives.

The Lenten Season, which begins with the celebration of Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, is the holiest time of our Christian year. It is a time for Christians to reflect on their relationship with God; a time to assess where we are in our walk of faith and to commit to strengthening our relationship with God. It is, therefore, an important time of reflection, renewal and recommitment for all of us as Christians.

I would like to take the opportunity of the season to thank you for faithfully exercising your role as a disciple of Christ. I would also like to remind you that spiritual needs continue to be great in our community. I encourage you, therefore, to be a model of spiritual disciplines during this very important and holy period of the Christian year. As you reflect, renew and recommit yourself this season, remember the wonderful things that God does for us every day because God loves us and remember the special gift of his Son, Jesus, who came to die so we may have abundant life. My beloved, let me remind you of God's challenge to us, through the prophet Isaiah:

"Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And bring the homeless poor into your house,

When you see the naked to cover them, And not to hide yourself from your own kin?" (Isaiah 58: 7, NRSV)

As Christians we are mandated to spread God's love to others. We can do that in so many ways. Speak to others about your special story of faith, volunteer to help others, donate to organizations that need help helping the less fortunate. Start a new program at your church or support an existing one. Attend worship service, invite a friend to church with you and financially support your church. Above all, pray. Pray for the ministry of your church; pray that God's Spirit will abide in it and pray for everyone you know. Finally, pray for God's guidance and help in your own life.

It is easy to put your spiritual life on hold. It is easy to take for granted the sacrifice that God made in sending his son, Jesus, to die for our sins, but Lent is the perfect time to renew or strengthen your relationship with God. Let us use it. As the Lenten season ends, we will celebrate the glorious resurrection of our loving Savior Jesus Christ on Easter morning. We will celebrate this great event of our faith by renewing our baptism. I urge you not to miss this opportunity to renew our commitment to Christ by remembering our baptism together as a community of faith. Let this Easter be the time that you stop taking your relationship with God for granted. Remember what it was like to feel a close relationship with God? Remember what it is like to be surrounded on a Sunday morning with fellow Christians that truly care about you. Remember and join us in worship this Easter Sunday and every Sunday, and bring a friend with you. We will welcome you with open arms and open hearts.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Guerschom Saint Ange

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 10** – Palm Sunday – 9 a.m. service
April 14 – Maundy Thursday service at Lycoming UMC – 7 p.m.
April 15 – Good Friday service at Mexico UMC – 4 p.m.
April 17 – Easter Sunday – 9 a.m. service
April 21 – Organ donation awareness evening – 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
May 8 - Mother's Day
May 30 – Memorial Day
June 4 – Attic Treasure sale
June 19 – Father's Day
June 21 - First Day of Summer!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, TO...

- ~ Those who took a heart or two from the Have a Heart Tree in February. We shared the love of Jesus with over 30 people from our church family and beyond.
- ~ The ladies who keep our church sign updated for our community to see the wonderful ways we are sharing Jesus' love with our neighbors.
- ~ Everyone who volunteers their time in any way, whether it's by serving on a committee, providing coffee hour, cleaning, volunteering in the church office, serving as an usher, liturgist or acolyte and so much more. You are appreciated.
- ~ Those who provided the refreshments and hospitality for the Bishop's recent visit to our church.

*We welcome those that
joined our church family
recently*

*Mac Guile
Donna Hooge
Jamie Phillips*

Many thanks and much love to my church family for keeping Mark and I in your prayers as well as the beautiful cards, gift cards and good food. It means a lot to us. Thank you all!

Hope Lenhart

Baptism

We recently celebrated the baptism of *Waylon Daniel Guile*, son of Danielle (Parker) and Mac Guile.



Celebrating a milestone....

Hope Lenhart shared recently that she joined our church 50 years ago on March 22. Congratulations Hope!

Do you have a milestone to share? Let us know!

News from the Mission Outreach Committee by Carol Watros

Our church is mission-oriented and our committee is grateful for your efforts to reach those who hunger silently for nourishment that is unique to each person. We center ourselves and define our mission from Matthew 25: 35-40 “And here’s why: I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me. Then those “sheep” are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?’ Then the King will say, ‘I’m telling you the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me – you did it to me.’”

Here are some ways the Mission Outreach Committee is meeting needs here in our backyard and beyond.

We are donating \$250.00 to **UMCOR** (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to assist the **Ukraine people**. Money will go to International Disaster Response and Recovery United Methodists Advance #982450. This fund provides direct assistance to the Ukraine people and refugees. We hope to match this \$250 donation with an additional \$250 from our congregation to be able to send a total of \$500 to this effort. If it is on your heart, please make your check payable to FUMC with a note written in the memo section **Mission Outreach/Ukraine**.

The **Blessing Box** is a blessing to so many of our neighbors. Thank you to all who “feed” the Blessing Box. A special thank you to the Boy Scouts Troop 825 and Girl Scouts Troop 10054 and respective leaders, Scott Jackson and Lori Behling for their generous donations. Tops weekly coupon sales are a great way to pick up an item or two for the box. Please no outdated food or glass containers.

We are hosting an **Organ Donation Awareness** meeting on Thursday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the church for individuals to learn how organ donation provides hope to those in need of life-saving transplants and comfort to families of those who give the gift of life. Experts from the Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network will share facts about organ donation and explain what it means to be a registered organ donor. We encourage you to gather with us this Easter season of life and learn how organ donation, indeed, passes life on. This event is free and open to the public.

We are collecting **blankets for Brown Memorial**. Many children are living in homes where the power has been disconnected and the number of people living on the streets escalates. Blankets are needed! We are accepting gently used blankets to bring to Brown. A blanket box will be in the narthex beginning March 27.

The **Attic Treasure Sale** is scheduled for Saturday, June 4. We are seeking donations of gently used household items, linens, jewelry, children’s clothing and books, toys, games and holiday items. We ask that any donation be one that you would purchase at the sale. Please no adult books, electronics or furniture that is in need of repair. We need folks to bake, help us price and set up. This is our biggest fundraiser. Thanks in advance for any help you can provide.

A Glimpse of our Church's History by Penny Howard

This history has been collected from several sources, including previous church announcements, programs and annual pastor reports. This is only a very general history of the beginnings of our Mexico Methodist Parish. So, it begins...

The Mexico Methodist parish dates back to 1808 when a traveling pastor was passing through the Mexico area. He had inquired about any Methodists nearby. Someone suggested the Ames family. He held the first Methodist Service at the home of Minerva and Leonard Ames. Services continued here until 1820. There was no permanent settlement in this area at that time. Mexico Methodists were served by 14 different traveling pastors. In 1820 a two-story school house was erected on Main Street (location of our high school) and shared with the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. The first actual church building was built on Main Street in 1833. It was destroyed by fire in the fall of 1852. Interim services were held at the Town Hall.

In 1852 the Mexico Methodist parish built a new church structure on its current location on Church Street. The stained-glass windows were later installed between 1883 and 1884. Monies raised for these memorial windows came from families, and groups who sponsored the windows in memory of a parish member or group within the church. The WFMS (Womens' Foreign Missionary Society) sponsored one of the windows in the Narthex. The April 6th 1884 Pastors Annual Report references the W.F.M.S. paid \$328.45. Report further notes that the new windows would all be paid for when put in place.

An interesting note to end with. At the time the church was built in 1852, church trustees sold "slips" (pews or seats) to pay indebtedness to meet running expenses of the church. Our church is full with over 200 hundred years of history. It has many stories yet to be uncovered and shared.

Visit from Bishop Mark Webb

Our church was recently honored to host a pastors' meeting and reception for Bishop



Mark Webb. Bishop Webb is the current leader of the Upper New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church which is comprised of 865 local churches and 85 new faith communities in 12 districts covering 49 of the 62 counties in New York State.

Bishop Webb and the local pastors were very appreciative of the buffet reception furnished by a few ladies from our church after the meeting.

Grant DeLong's new address

Grant DeLong recently moved and has a new address:

Eastern Star Home
8290 State Route 69
P.O. Box 959
Oriskany, NY 13424

He would love to receive cards from his church family.

Movie Nights have returned!

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m. for a Christian movie sponsored by the Church Growth and Discipleship Group.

Free popcorn and snacks plus an inspirational movie. Come relax and have fun!

Look for more movie nights to be announced in the future.



Candles anyone?

We have an abundance of used candles at the church. They could be used to make fire starters or melted down to make new candles.

They will be available at the church. Help yourself!

Please keep the family and friends of

Ellen Nurse

in your prayers as she passed away on March 7.

If you need to contact the church:

Phone – (315) 963-3066

E-mail – fumcmexico@gmail.com

Website – www.mex1umc.com

Mailing address: P.O. Box 255, Mexico, NY 13114



Church mission: To make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

April birthdays

9 – Marlea Munger
11 – Sue Morton
13 – Wayne Myers
14 – Connie Day, Jacquie Taylor
19 – Leeann New
28 – Clint Smith

April anniversaries

23 – Jim and Mary Smith



May birthdays

4 – Kathy Rose, Donna Hooge
5 – Duane Morton, Everett Robinson
7 – Hope Lenhart
10 – Aaron and Eric Albrecht
13 – David Hubbard
17 – Sharon Anderson
18 – Jim Barbur, Mary Beth Turo
20 – Dana New
27 - Alex Linerode
29 - Leslie Sherman, Sparky Rector

May anniversaries

4 – Cliff and Priscilla VanGorder
23 – Gary and Connie Day
24 – Niles and Jonita Greenhouse
25 – Rick and Leslie Sherman
27 – Jim and Brenda Hotchkiss
30 – David and Marlea Munger
31 – Gary and Gail Hurlbut, Bob and Donna Hooge

June birthdays

3 – Olivia Linerode
9 – Earl DeLong
11 – Anna Mae Bateman, Susie Linerode
17 – Gary Weber
19 – Alexia Russell
23 – Grant DeLong
24 – James Watros
28 – Andrew Munger, Alicia Weber

June anniversaries

3 – George and Mary Grants
16 – Charles and Anna Mae Bateman
26 – Clint and Patricia Smith

