

News from the First United Methodist Church of Mexico July, August and September 2022

To my Mexico FUMC Family, grace and peace to all of you.

I write this, my first letter to you as your pastor, with great joy in my heart. It was six years ago this very month that I left the walls of Mexico FUMC to start my journey as pastor at Lycoming UMC. That very journey was possible because of the guidance and support that I received from all of you.

As I write this, two scriptures come to mind, Luke 15:11-32 and Luke 4:14-30. The first of those scriptures being The Parable of the Prodigal Son and the second is when Jesus was rejected in his own hometown of Nazareth. One speaks of a son who leaves home and is received back with open arms and the other is where Jesus himself was not welcomed as a teacher and fulfiller of prophecy. Now I am in no way comparing myself to the prodigal son and definitely not to Jesus himself, but these scriptures speak to returning sons. I return to you, my Mexico family, to give all my heart to serve you as a pastor in the best way I can. I would like to share a few words that might bring hope to some for a strong future and some reassurance to those who may still be "on the fence" about their prodigal son coming home.

As we move toward our first worship services together, it is important that you know that everything that I do is God-centered, Christ-led, and Spirit-filled. All aspects of the church, from worship, to small groups and committees, to youth ministries, and outreach and mission are viewed through two lenses, The Great Commandment and The Great Commission. The Great Commandment being to love your God with all of your heart, mind, and soul and to love your neighbor as yourself and the Great Commission being to go and make disciples and to baptize in Jesus' name.

I do not believe in a full contemporary service, but I also do not believe in a full traditional service either. We have a blended congregation, so our worship should be just that, for everyone. I am not the great "disruptor", which means I will not come in and change everything, but I do like to add things to enhance what is already there. I believe in personal connections, so I will take every opportunity to connect with you, my church family. The one thing I find most important in any relationship is honest, open communication at all times. We may not always agree, but we can find common space to work together for the betterment of our church and community.

Finally, music has always played an important part in my ministry and will continue to do so. I appreciate and recognize that there are many ways that music can be used to share God's love with others, so you can expect to continue to hear your beautiful choir, along with the traditional hymns that you are used to, but you will also get to experience worship through new styles of contemporary Christian and praise and worship music.

Family, I cannot express enough how blessed I feel right now to become your new pastor and how much of a blessing it is for my family and I to return to Mexico. I am so excited to be in ministry with all of you. No one knows what each day brings, but God has placed us together to be on this journey with one another and I can't wait to see what He has in store for us.

Pastor Brandin Greco

IMPORTANT DATES

July 3 – Welcome Pastor Brandin!

July 4 – Independence Day

July 15 – 7 p.m. – Pastor Brandin and family giving a concert at No Greater Love Prayer and Worship Group

July 31 – 2 p.m. Pavillion dedication in memory and honor of Rev. Vivian Summerville at Lycoming UMC

August 21 – Church picnic right after worship (see page 6 for more details)

September 5 – Labor Day

September 22 – Fall begins

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, TO...

~ Those who faithfully donate their time to clean the church, remove the trash from the church, mow the church lawn and mow the parsonage lawn.

~ All who serve on committees and provide leadership to our church.

~ Those who helped in any way with the Attic Treasure sale. \$1,382 was raised to support mission projects here and around the world.

~ Everyone who continues to support our Blessing Box ministry to help feed our neighbors.

“The service that you perform is not only supplying the needs to the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:12

Time change

*Our worship service will now
be held at 11:00 a.m.*

See you in church!



Thank you from the Friendship Unit

Thanks to everyone who donated to the Friendship Unit’s annual baby bottle fundraiser.

To date, a total of \$280 was raised to benefit local childrens’ ministries including Operation Reindeer and Mexico Food Pantry birthday bags.

Welcome to our new Office Coordinator, Marlea Munger

Marlea is in the office on Mondays and Fridays
from 9:00 – 11:00.

fumcmexico@gmail.com

(315) 963-3066

In Sympathy

Please keep the families and friends of Nellie Roberts and Madelyn Schmidt in your prayers.

“Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father” Matthew 13:43

Church Discipleship and Growth Group by Sue Morton

With the teachings of the Gospel as a foundation, this group provides the tools and resources necessary to inspire people to build and/or strengthen their relationship with God. Some of the ministries this group coordinates are:

- Purchasing Care Notes and distributing Upper Rooms devotionals
- Hosting Christian movie nights
- Inviting the Mexico community to our special worship services
- Setting up a lending library of faith-based Christian DVDs
- Publishing weekly information about our worship service in the Palladium Times
- Advertising our church with a banner in the village of Mexico

Mission Outreach Committee News by Carol Watros

Attic Treasure Sale (June): Many thanks to those who helped in any way. We raised nearly \$1,400. In addition to raising money for outreach, the local and greater community benefited from items that didn't sell; including the Care and Share Shop, Dawn LaFlamm's RoseVilla Library in Ghana, Brown Memorial and the Rescue Mission. So truly, this was an event which made a difference in the lives of many in multiple ways. Again, thank you!

Organ Donation Awareness Evening (April): Members of our church and the community attended this event in recognition of National Donate Life Month. Nancy Ryan, Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network Director of Development, shared how organ, tissue and eye donation provides hope to those in need of life-saving transplants and improved quality of life, and provide comfort to families of those who give these gifts of life. She also shared their video "To Give is Divine" which "features five religious leaders as they discuss their thoughts on faith, friendship and giving the ultimate gift through organ donation." (<http://www.donorrecovery.org/learn/religion-and-organ-donation/>).

Meals that Move (March): Recognizing meal preparation can sometimes be a challenge for those who have difficulty leaving their homes due to personal health issues, caring for others, or navigating new-found stressors, we prepared and delivered breakfast, lunch and supper to those in our church community in March. The menu was Monday Meal's famous cheeseburger soup, Barb Lighthall's special shepherd's pie and infamous cookies, biscuits, and for breakfast a french toast casserole with sausage links. We plan to do this again and have heard it was appreciated by the recipients.

Fellowship with Ukraine: Per the FUMC website, "the United Methodist community in Ukraine, though quite small, is actively engaged in assisting neighbors in need. Global Ministries is in touch with the church's leadership as well as with church leaders in countries welcoming those who are fleeing from violence in Ukraine. 100 percent of all advance contributions go to the designated cause." Mission Outreach reached out to you and the generosity was overwhelming. \$450.00 was sent to Ukraine Global Ministries to assist with their refugee work.

Mission Outreach Committee News (continued)

Blessing Box: The Blessing Box continues to be a blessing to the unspoken needs in this community. Any non-perishable item you can add to this box is appreciated. Our committee is small and each of us work to fill the box 6 days a week. Recently, when one of us was at the church for another reason, a person drove in. As that person was leaving their vehicle, they said that this was a Godsend to their family and they were so grateful. This is not the first time we have heard this. Know how much that can of tuna, jar of peanut butter, box of cereal, roll of toilet paper, bottle of juice, box of cat or dog food, bar of soap etc. makes a difference. We ask you to be cognizant of temperatures (i.e. no chocolate bars in the summer), expiration dates and avoiding glass containers.

Upcoming: We welcome with open arms Pastor Brandin Greco. He has pledged his full support of this committee. Brown Memorial, of whom we have prepared meals for the past several years, is now serving 150 individuals each Sunday and has dates needed for meal provision. No date has been set; we will keep you informed along with the date of our next Outreach meeting. Please contact Carol Bradlinski-Watros at cbwatros@gmail.com; 315.529.0930 regarding any interest you have in joining this committee or ideas you may have as to how to reach out to others. You can also contact Lori Behling, Barb Lighthall, Sue Morton, Rose Ann Myers, Kathy Rose, Diane Tupper or Alicia Weber.



Several people have asked if the listing of committee members could be included in the newsletter. While it's not part of the newsletter itself, the document that was presented by the Nominations Committee to the charge conference in December, 2021 is attached.

****Editor's note – This document has been updated from the original presented at the charge conference in red to reflect our new Pastor and the vacancy in the position of Treasurer.**

Our Church's History Continued by Penny Howard

Our beautiful stained-glass windows were installed in August of 1884. These windows were decoratively created and dedicated to church members, pastors and founding parishioners. The memorials are as follows.

As you enter the sanctuary on your right, the first window was in memory of Daniel and Henry Austin (twin brothers) by Mrs. H.H. Tillapaugh and Daniel and Elizabeth Austin.

The second window was done in memory of Leonard and Minerva Ames and Rev. W.W. Rundell, by Leonard Ames Jr., Mrs. A.A. Howlett and Harriett Ames Rundell. It was Minerva Ames who welcomed the first Methodist preacher into her home.

The first half of the third window was done in memory of Ruben Halliday by Mrs. Deborah Whitney.

The second half of the third window was done in memory of Rev. Burroughs Holmes by Dr. John Holmes. Rev. Holmes was appointed Pastor from 1839-1842.

The window nearest the choir and organ were done in memory of Lewis Miller, a long-time choir leader in our church. The emblem is a harp, dedicated by the M.E. Choral group.

The windows on the left side of the church were dedicated as follows. The first window, a crown was done in memory of Orin Whitney by Mrs. Lewis Miller and Mrs. Leander Tuller. This window also has a cross in memory of Oliver Whitney by Mrs. Adelia Blakeslee, Mrs. H.M. Bard, Mrs. Bowne, J.O. Whitney and J.R. Norton as prominent members of the church.

The first side of the second window was done in memory of David B. Maine by his adoptive parents Mr. and Mrs. D.W.P. Maine. David died very young.

The second side of the second window was done in memory of Mrs. S. Elizabeth Skinner by Mrs. J.B. Stone and T.W. Skinner, former wife of Hon. T.W. Skinner.

The third window was given in memory of Gregory and Nancy Patten. This window has a unique circle emblem in the center.

The articles researched also show that the doors in the prayer room are cathedral glass in two colors.

The smaller stained glass front window by the stairs in the narthex was dedicated by the W.F.M. Society. The Annual Pastor's report that year showed they paid a sum of \$328.45 for the window. Today that would be \$ 9,783.

Later, additional memorial names were added to the windows. Pastor Kenneth L. Lord who served from 1975 to 1983 and Pastor Joe and Jean Wallace dedicated in 2002.

May we continue to shine a positive light on our community and world as our church past parishioners have done.



Treasurer

Various duties including paying bills, payroll, maintaining accurate records, and creating monthly and year-end reports. Experience is preferred but training will be available. Pay will be discussed with interested candidates and is negotiable. This is a part-time position with approximately 8-10 hours a month.

Pianist or Organist

Duties would include playing on Sunday mornings and directing the choir. Salary will be discussed with interested applicants.

Interested parties should contact Jennifer Jackson at 315-706-6312 or the church office at 315-963-3066.

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



Upcoming Book Study with Pastor Brandin

Pastor Brandin will be starting a study on Adam Hamilton's book "Forgiveness" in mid-August.

More details will be coming!



Our annual church picnic will be held on **Sunday, August 21** right after worship at the Community Park in Mexico.

The Men's Club will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, table service and drinks.

Please bring a dish to pass.

In the event of inclement weather, we'll hold the picnic in the fellowship hall.

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

Birthdays and Anniversaries

July birthdays

1 – Jean Irwin
2 – Joanne Barnes, Millie Murray
3 – Chase Parker
4 – Paul Vautrin
5 – Patricia Smith
7 – Doug Irwin
10 – Linda Robinson
13 – Terry Grimshaw, Wayne Weber
14 – Doanne Hurlbut
19 – Jonita Greenhouse, Karen Grimshaw, Jeanette Spicer
20 – Barb Lighthall, David Coonrod, Shirley Tourot
21 – Alyssa and Andrea Ross
23 – Jim Smith
25 – David Hurlbut
29 – Katie Linerode

August birthdays

1 – Niles Greenhouse, Mary Mack
4 – George Monson
5 – Pastor Brandin Greco
6 – Jessica Parker
7 – Noah Spencer
11 – Gary Hurlbut
14 – Elyse Skiles
17 – David Munger
20 – Gail Hurlbut
23 – Katelynn Spaulding
24 – Missy Gorton
26 – Cathy Stock
27 – Duane Griffin

September birthdays

1 – David DeLong
6 – Rose Ann Myers, Maggie Palmer
8 – Brenda Hotchkiss
12 – Cindy Monson
16 – Gary Day

July anniversaries

7 – Earl and Muriel DeLong
11 – Mike and Kelly Freihofer
20 – Chuck and Jessica Parker
22 – Jeremy and Lisa Spencer
28 – James and Carol Watros
30 – Jeff and Carol DeLong



August anniversaries

3 – Everett and Linda Robinson
6 – Chuck and Dotty Parker
7 – Jim and Diane Barbur
11 – Jeff and Marcia Albrecht
12 – Eric and Lori Behling
21 – Duane and Sue Morton
24 – Ed and Barb Lighthall

September anniversaries

5 – Bill and Maggie Palmer
6 – Duane and Norma Griffin
25 – Benjamin and Kaylee Gilmore

18 – George Grants, Cindy Ross
19 – Benjamin Gilmore
24 – Lisa Spencer
27 – Victoria Ross
29 – Jenn Jackson
30 – Zianna Gorton