



The Messenger
First United Methodist Church of Mexico
January 2020

From the Pastor

Dear Family and Friends of Mexico First United Methodist Church,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our beloved Savior, Jesus who is the Christ.

The Message is a paraphrase of the Bible written by Rev. Eugene Peterson. He begins the beloved 23rd Psalm like this:

God, my shepherd!

I don't need a thing.

You have bedded me down in lush meadows,
you find me quiet pools to drink from.

True to your word,

you let me catch my breath

and send me in the right direction.

Sometimes when we aren't expecting it, we find ourselves placed in lush meadows and drinking from the quiet pools as we catch our breath from the hectic pace of ordinary life. I wasn't expecting to spend three months resting in the meadow and relying on God in new ways as Ernie and I began a medical journey.

My recovery from back surgery continues to go well, although it takes many months to fully heal from this type of procedure. My doctor and I have agreed that January 19th would be a good day for me to return to work. I'll start with leading worship and preaching as my main duties and gradually build up to the rest of my responsibilities.

I'm looking forward to returning – it will be nice to begin resuming a more normal life after this time of recovery. Quiet time is nice and restorative; but if we spend all our time resting in the meadow then the Good News of Jesus Christ does not spread.

Thank you for the love and support you have shown us over the past several weeks. The longer I follow Jesus Christ as his disciple, the more I see the importance of people coming together to share the love of God with each other.

See you on January 19th!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Grace

JANUARY IMPORTANT DATES

- 1st Happy New Year
5th Sunday School 8:45 am Worship 10:00 am
6th Admin Council Meeting 6:30 pm
12th Sunday School 8:45 am Worship 10:00 am
13th Monday's Meals 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
18th UMMen's Breakfast 8:30 am – Maple View Restaurant
19th Sunday School 8:45 am Worship 10:00 am
20th SPPRC 6:30 pm
23rd Choir 6:00 pm
24th Food Sense 12:00 pm
26th Sunday School 8:45 am Worship 10:00 am
26th Youth Group 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
27th Monday's Meals 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
27th Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm
30th Choir 6:00 pm

THANK YOU, THANK YOU...

- to Pastor Brandin Greco for provided a wonderful Christmas Eve Service for our members.
- to Jessica Parker and Sue Morton for their support in contributing and proofing the newsletter!
- to all the ladies who help stuff and fold the newsletter, Connie Ellison, Elaine DeLong, Mary Grants, Mary Mack, Sue Morton, Faith Hubbard and Esther Granger.
- to the congregation for their continued support of our church.



Christmas Cookies Delivered

On Sunday, December 15th, eleven youth and 6 adults met in the Fellowship Hall to decorate Christmas Cookies and deliver cookies, cards and Christmas Joy to 34 senior citizens and 3 community group homes in and around the village of Mexico. Dividing up into 3 groups, deliveries to all on our list were made in about 1 and ½ hours. All cookie recipients appreciated the visit, singing and the cookies.

When bringing to the other places the next day, 4 cookie containers were delivered by one of the adults to members at Seneca Manor and Bishops Commons, plus homes of two now Oswego residents who are still members of our church. Thanks to Jenna and Lori Behling for organizing this project and thank you to those church members who donated cookies.

*Our sympathies and prayers are
with
the family and friends of
Carolyn Hiler
who passed away
December 11, 2019*

From the UMMen's Club

The Men's club held a breakfast on 12/21 and spouses were invited to attend. The breakfast was delicious and great fellowship was had by all.

Next Meeting will be held on January 18th at 8:30 am at Maple View Restaurant.



Upcoming Meetings

2/15 - Halfway Night 5:00 - 8:00 pm

3/14 - UMMen's Breakfast

4/11 - UMMen's Breakfast

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd Jean Wallace
- 2nd Cliff VanGorder
- 8th Chuck Parker
- 14th Jewell Foulz
- 16th Richard Barnes
- 24th Georgia Halstead
- 25th Marion Hinman
- 26th Connie Ellison

*Happy
Birthday!*

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

- 10th Terry & Karen Grimshaw
- 25th Wayne & Rose Ann Myers

*Happy
Anniversary*

JUST MARRIED

- 12/28/19 Molly Friehofer
& Cic Mellace



Need to Contact our Church?

The phone is: 315-963-3066. The email address is: fumcmexico@gmail.com

The mailing address is: First United Methodist Church, PO Box 255, Mexico, NY 13114

PLEASE VISIT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE: www.mex1umc.com

Our FACEBOOK is: www.facebook.com/fumcmexico

Please Join Us For Worship at 10:00 am.

Children's Church at: 10:15 am Sunday School at: 8:45 am



A small group of youth from the Mexico and Lycoming Methodist churches, accompanied by Pastor Brandin Greco, Kaylee Greco and Hope Lenhart, marched in the Christmas in Mexico Parade on December 7th. They sang Christmas carols and jingled their bells all the way.

Admin Council Notes

December Administrative Council Highlights

We were reminded again of all that so many people do for the church, community and each other. Highlights from the meeting include:

- The Admin Council is working on putting together a Safety Plan for our church. This will be an ongoing open item.
- A building usage protocol and security letter has been given out to organizations who use our church as a friendly reminder when leaving the building turn heat down, turn lights off and be respectful of our space and property.
- Efforts continue for Finance and Admin to finalize a 2020 budget.

Anyone can attend Admin Council meetings, although only elected members of the Council may vote. Our next meeting is Monday, January 6, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

A gentle reminder if you do use the church for an event or meeting, please make sure lights are turned off, doors are shut, and heat is turned down when leaving the building. Thank you so much.



Giving Tree 2019

Thank you to everyone who donated warm knit hats, gloves, scarves and socks to the “Giving Tree” set up in the Narthex by the women of the Friendship Circle. These items were given to Operation Reindeer and the local food pantry to be distributed to those in need this Christmas season. The total donated: 23 Knit Hats, 12 Gloves/mittens, 12 Scarves, 12 pairs of socks and 3 head bands.



Mary Beth Turo talking to a customer about the Christmas in Mexico Craft Show.

Wrap up of Christmas In Mexico Craft Show

Thank you to all who helped on the Church’s craft sale during the Christmas in Mexico celebration on December 7th. You may have helped in the kitchen, at the bake sale table or at the new “member-made-craft” table or setting up or tearing down. Whatever you did, it helped in making this sale day the most profitable ever in our 10-year history of hosting this craft sale. Total proceeds were \$1,307.00 and all the money went to the church treasury to help pay bills.



Tolling of the Bells

Each Sunday in Advent (beginning with the November 31st service) the youth of our church have been tolling the bells to start the service. The first Sunday was with one bell each, the 2nd with two bells each, the 3rd Sunday with 3 bells and the 4th Sunday with 4 bells each. The youth paraded around the sanctuary in an orderly fashion tolling their bells.



Friendship Circle Christmas Party

On December 17th 7 women from our church’s Friendship Circle met at the home of Norma Griffin for our annual Christmas Party. While our members may have been low, our spirits were high as we came together to celebrate this holy season in Friendship and love. After enjoying a delicious meal, we chatted and packed up the hygiene and paper products we had brought to be donated to the Mexico Food Pantry.

Any woman of the church is welcomed to attend the quarterly meetings of the group. Give Lori Behling a call (315-963-8160) and express your interest in joining us.

Recipe –Taco Soup

This is a quick, throw together soup with a Mexican flair. Serve topped with corn chips, shredded Cheddar cheese and a dollop of sour cream. Adjust the amount of chili peppers if you're sensitive about spicy foods

Ingredients

2 pounds ground beef
1 envelope taco seasoning
1-1/2 cups water
1 can (16 ounces) mild chili beans, undrained
1 can (15-1/4 ounces) whole kernel corn, drained
1 can (15 ounces) pinto beans, rinsed and drained
1 can (14-1/2 ounces) stewed tomatoes
1 can (10 ounces) diced tomato with green chilies
1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chilies, optional
1 envelope ranch salad dressing mix

In a Dutch oven, cook beef over medium heat until no longer pink; drain. Add taco seasoning and mix well. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 15 minutes or until heated through, stirring occasionally.



SERVING in JANUARY

GREETERS

5th Joan Phelps
12th Duane & Sue Morton
19th Diane & Jim Sokolowski
26th Joan Phelps

LITURGISTS

5th Cindy Ross
12th Ernie Warren
19th Jim Sokolowski
26th Mary Grants

USHERS

Thank you to all ushers who serve during worship.

COUNTERS

Dotty Parker & Had Fravor

TRASH REMOVAL

Jeremy Spencer

