



*The Messenger*  
*First United Methodist Church of Mexico*  
*November 2019*

*From the Pastor...*

Dear Mexico church family and friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our beloved Savior Jesus the Christ. There is an old saying that people make plans and God laughs. I have been planning for this Autumn and upcoming Christmas season. Things in Worship and other aspects of church life. Ernie and I had personal plans for the next month and today I find myself in a hospital bed after emergency back surgery. As always God is good. God provided an excellent surgeon, operating team, and caring hospital staff. Rather than anxiety about this journey I have felt that “peace that passes all understanding” through Jesus Christ and I know God will continue to work in our lives as I take this medical journey. Thank you for the support you have offered through cards, phone calls, expressions of concerns and especially prayer since this medical episode began 3 weeks ago. Also, thanks to all who stepped in to help lead worship in October.

I will be on a medical leave for 3 months. Our District Superintendent Rev. Nola Anderson will provide someone to lead worship and handle Pastoral emergencies (such as emergency hospital visits). This person will provide continuity in worship while I am on medical leave. This has been an abrupt change for all of us and we can trust the words of Psalm 16:8-9 “I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore, my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure”.

I look forward to being back in church in January. Until then if you have questions or concerns contact John Aldrich (Lay Leader) or Chuck Parker (SPPRC Chair).

In Christs love,

Pastor Grace

## NOVEMBER IMPORTANT DATES

- 1<sup>st</sup> Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes  
Set up 11:00
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Shoebox packing 10:00 – 12:00
- 4<sup>th</sup> Admin Council Meeting 6:30 pm
- 7<sup>th</sup> Finance Meeting 6:00 pm
- 9<sup>th</sup> UMMen's workday 8:00 am
- 11<sup>th</sup> Monday's Meals 11:30 – 12:30
- 11<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day
- 16<sup>th</sup> Blizzard Bag Packing Party 10:00 am
- 18<sup>th</sup> SPRC Meeting 6:30 pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> Monday's Meals 11:30 – 12:30
- 25<sup>th</sup> Trustee's Meeting 6:30 pm
- 28<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day
- 30<sup>th</sup> Decorate Church for Advent Season  
10:00 am

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU...

- to all who helped with Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry.
- to all our greeters, liturgists, counters and ushers who serve each Sunday.
- to all that helped with the church cleaning day.
- to everyone who helped get ready and attended the Charge Conference.
- to everyone who has filled in and helped with October's worship.
- to Chuck Parker and Carol Aldrich for sitting with Ernie in the hospital waiting room during Pastor Grace's surgery.

### *Our Sympathy to...*

*The Family of David Martin  
who passed away on October 31, 2019.*



Pillowcase Dress Sewing Crew.

Sue Morton, Linda Matthews, Mary Grants, Nancy Smith and Cathy Stock.

### **Methodist Quilters**

Five cozy lap top robes were made and distributed to the following church members during the months of September and October: Rita and Grant DeLong, Suzie and Dave Martin, and Georgia Halstead. All five special blankets were made with love and the hope that the recipient will feel better knowing they are loved by their church family and rest easy wrapped in the love of the blankets.

As of October 30<sup>th</sup> – 83 pretty pillowcase dresses and 27 small teddy bears were made by a few industrious church members and friends. They will be put in Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## ***Decorating the Church***

*Do you love decorating for the Holidays?  
Then we need you! It's time to decorate the  
church for the Advent season.*

*November 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am*

*Please join us for fun and fellowship!*

## **From the UMMen's Club**

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the roast pork dinner. Just over \$1,100 was raised which will be used to support various ministries and projects within the church.

In lieu of the regular men's meeting in November, the men will participate in a "sharing of the blessings" workday at the mission hub (7481 Henry Clay Blvd. Liverpool, NY). The men of the church are invited to come and share their day (or part of it) to work together with other men throughout the area to construct wooden blessings boxes as well as other mission hub projects that need completion before the holidays.

The men will meet at the church at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. The workday will go from 9 - 4 that day with a pizza lunch provided. Stay as little or as long as you wish. Men are asked to bring a screwdriver/screwgun if you have one. All are invited to take part in this project, and you don't need to be a member of the men's club to join in. If you can help or have questions, please contact Jeremy Spencer at (315) 506-0543.

*Blessings*

## **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kelly Freihofer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Molly Freihofer  
David Rose
- 4<sup>th</sup> Lori Behling  
Rita DeLong  
Nancy Murray
- 7<sup>th</sup> Carleen Talamo
- 8<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Spaulding
- 10<sup>th</sup> Priscilla VanGorder
- 12<sup>th</sup> Mary Smith
- 14<sup>th</sup> Robert Ellison
- 20<sup>th</sup> Richard Rose
- 28<sup>th</sup> Mary Grants
- 29<sup>th</sup> Ashley Lenhart
- 30<sup>th</sup> Flora Kugler



## **NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY**

- 10<sup>th</sup> Joelle & Nathan Hutson

*Happy  
Anniversary*



## **Poinsettia Sales**

Time again to decorate the church for Christmas!

You can help by purchasing a Poinsettia in honor or in memory of loved ones. They are \$12.00 and checks can be made out to the **First United Methodist Church**. Order forms will also be inserted in the bulletin.

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Please turn in your order by Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> either by placing it in the collection plate or leave it in the office.

## **Youth Group**



Eleven youth, 2 high school assistants and 3 adults enjoyed a fall afternoon at Behling Orchards on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. A good time was had by all and the apples were delicious!

## **Lake Effect Cooperative Ministries**

### **Blizzard Bags**

We are collecting single serve shelf stable entrees such as Oodles of Noodles, Ramen noodles or canned single serve soups/meals. The stuffing party will be on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

## **Church Cleanup Day**

On October 26<sup>th</sup> many members of our congregation spent the morning taking down cobwebs, cleaning, vacuuming, weeding out things, mopping and the list goes on. Even though it was a lot of work, it was fun and a great fellowship in working together.

Thank you to everyone who helped out!

## *Need to Contact our Church?*

*The phone is: 315-963-3066. The email address is: [fumcmexico@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.mex1umc.com)**

**Our FACEBOOK is: [www.facebook.com/fumcmexico](http://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*

### **Upcoming Event:**

## **Annual Christmas in Mexico**

### **Christmas Bazaar**

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Everyone is invited to shop for crafts, handmade items, baked goods and more. If you are a baker, baked goods are welcome for the sale.

Proceeds from the sale of 18 tables filled with crafts, the lunch counter, our church bake sale table and (new this year) a table of crafts made by our own church members all will go towards paying for ongoing expenses of our church. If you have a special gift for making a handmade craft item (knit, sewn, wood working, artwork etc.) please call Sue Morton to have your item placed on the table to be sold. Sue's number is 315-963-3566. More information on the church craft sale to follow in weekly Sunday bulletins.



### **Admin Council Notes**

#### October 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:

- On behalf of Pastor Grace, John Aldrich presented the sexual harassment policy required by New York State; the policy was approved by the Administrative Council and will be forwarded to the conference and other required entities.
- Linda Fravor reported on behalf of the Trustees that the Stained-Glass Window Project is progressing and is slated for completion by mid-November.
- The Annual Church Charge Conference is October 26. This is the meeting to elect leaders, confirm committee appointments for 2019, approve the budget and discuss church related business. It will be hosted at our church with Rev. Yohang Chun, from Oswego presiding.

Everyone is welcome to attend Ad Council meetings, although only elected members of the Council may vote. Our next meeting is Monday, November 4th at 6:30 pm.

**100 for 100**

For many years, our church annually hosted an auction to 'feed our finances'. The funds generated help us pay the bills. "100 for 100" replaces the auction and provides a way for everyone connected to the congregation to engage in additional stewardship by giving an extra \$100 to assist with the increasing costs of "making our church happen." Please earmark your donation in the check memo or envelope as "100 for 100". The donation can be a lump sum or divided into increments.

We are very close to meeting our goal! Thank you in advance for your extra contribution towards feeding our finances and your commitment to make disciples of Jesus Christ locally and globally.

**Office Hours**

*Diane's Office Hours:*

Tuesday 9:30 am – 12:30 pm  
Friday 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

If you need assistance with church related items, contact:  
Chuck Parker 315-963-8413  
or  
John Aldrich 315-963-8802

***Leaving for the Winter?***

If you are leaving for the winter months, please confirm with Diane (315-963-3066) your address if you would like to continue receiving the Newsletter while you are enjoying sunshine.

**2019 ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING PROJECT**

We invite you once again to let your spirit shine with candles in our church windows during this year's Advent season. Sponsor a candle in one of our church windows in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The cost for sponsoring is \$15 per candle. The candles will be "lit" for the first time on Sunday, December 1st, the First Sunday in Advent. Responses may be placed in Sunday's collection plate or delivered to the church office by Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

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**CANDLE LIGHTING PROJECT – 2019**

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

or

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSORED BY \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Candles @ \$15 Each \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to First United Methodist Church. Please note "Candle Project" on the memo line. Your check and this coupon may be mailed to the church office in care of PO Box 255, Mexico, NY, 13114, or placed in Sunday's collection plate, using one of the envelopes provided in the pew pockets. Please note "Candle Project" on the outside of the envelope.

Thank you for your support in this year's fundraiser.



## SERVING in NOVEMBER

### GREETERS

3<sup>rd</sup> Mary Mack  
10<sup>th</sup> Joan Phelps  
17<sup>th</sup> Spencer Family  
24<sup>th</sup> Cathy Stock

### LITURGISTS

3<sup>rd</sup> Daniel Hall  
10<sup>th</sup> Mary Mack  
17<sup>th</sup> Rose Ann Myers  
24<sup>th</sup> Mary Grants

### USHERS

Thank you to all ushers who serve during  
worship.

### COUNTERS

Mary Grants & Kathy Rose

### TRASH REMOVAL

Andy Ross

*The **Sunday School children** are learning  
about "The Fruits of the Spirit." As a project,  
they are collecting canned fruit for the  
Mexico Food Pantry.*

*Please consider bringing in a can or two of  
fruit and place it in the appropriate bin in  
the Narthex of our church during the month  
of November.*

## *Thanksgiving Recipe from*

*Lisa Spencer*

### *Pumpkin Cream Cheese Crumb Cake*

#### **Crumb topping**

6 tablespoons butter slightly softened  
1/3 cup flour  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
1/2 cup rolled oats  
1 teaspoon cinnamon

#### **Cake**

1 3/4 cups flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice  
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
3 eggs  
1 cup pumpkin puree  
1/2 cup applesauce

#### **Cream cheese filling**

12 ounces cream cheese (1 1/2 box)  
1/3 cup sugar  
1 egg  
3/4 teaspoon vanilla

#### Instructions:

1. In medium bowl combine 6 tablespoons butter, 1/3 cup flour, brown sugar, rolled oats and 1 teaspoon cinnamon. Using pastry knife, cut in butter until crumbly. Set aside.
2. In medium bowl whisk together 1 3/4 cups flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt and pumpkin pie spice.
3. In stand mixer with paddle attachment, cream 1/2 cup butter with 1 1/2 cups sugar. Turn mixer to stir and add 3 eggs, one at a time, just until blended. Add pumpkin puree and applesauce and mix just until incorporated. Add flour mixture (from step 2 above) in three parts mixing just until incorporated.
4. In medium bowl with hand mixer beat cream cheese and 1/3 cup sugar until smooth and creamy. Add one egg and vanilla and mix just until incorporated.
5. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and spray a 9 x 13 baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Spread half of the pumpkin cake mixture in the pan. Carefully spread the cream cheese mixture over the cake mixture. Now add the rest of the cake mixture spreading carefully with a spatula. Some may bleed through. Do not overwork or the pumpkin cake will swallow the cream cheese.
6. Sprinkle with the crumb topping and bake for 50 minutes. Allow to cool 20 minutes before cutting.
7. Refrigerate leftovers.

# *Stained Glass Window Project*

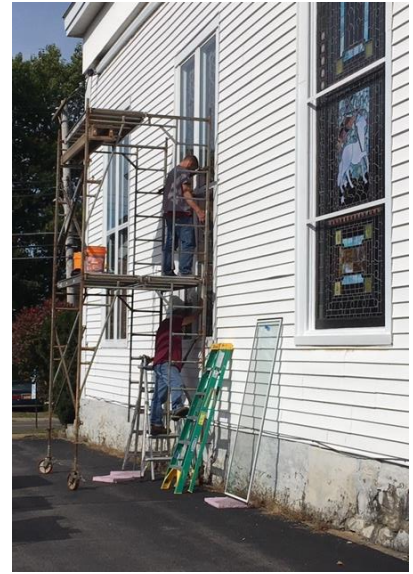
## *Photos*



September 6<sup>th</sup> – Seen near the north side entrance to our Church, Chris Brennan of Brennan Stained Glass Window Studio of Syracuse is seen preparing the stained-glass window and woodwork for the storm window installation. He carefully painted the black wood trim on the sash and the white window casings.



September 25<sup>th</sup> – Chris Brennan preparing the stained-glass window. Note he is on a ladder on scaffolding behind the bushes!



October 9<sup>th</sup> – Chris Brennan and Gary Messinger work together on the south side of the building to install the storm windows that will protect our beautiful, historic stained-glass windows.

Thank you to our Trustees for directing this project, and the congregation members and memorial donations for financially making this happen!